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Thursday, February 28, 2013

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Parents to pay extra for meals in schools

PARENTS in Halesowen who pay for their children to have school meals will have to pay around £1 extra a month, under new plans.

The five pence rise will take the cost of a lunch up to £1.90 a day or £9.50 a week, if approved by council chiefs.

The authority says the 3.3 per cent inflationary rise will cover rising food and fuel bills.

It's expected to bring in an extra £125,000 in 2013/14, which will offset the increase in costs, the council says.

Bosses said despite previous increases the number of children having school dinners had risen in 2011/12. Dudley Council's education chief Councillor Tim Crumpton said in a report: "Meal uptake in 2011/12 saw a 2.9 per cent increase, and year to date we have maintained numbers, despite the current climate."

"Trends from the past three years have shown that the price increase has had no effect on meal numbers."

The cost of a meal over the border in Sandwell is also £1.90.

While in Wolverhampton it's £2 and in Staffordshire £2.10.

A final decision will be made on the rise at a meeting on March 4.

Car leads in death probe

A CAR has been found by police who are investigating a hit-and-run tragedy in which an 85-year-old Cradley Heath great grandfather died.

Pensioner Bernard Betts was crossing the road just feet from his Barrs Road home when he was knocked down in the incident on January 16.

He died two weeks later. Police said a Citroen car found at a garage in the Wall-sall area had given them significant leads.

They also interviewed a man, aged 40, who visited officers voluntarily. No-one has been arrested.

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CHARGE DROPPED IN MURDER CASE

by Louise Jew

FRESH medical evidence was the reason a murder charge against a man accused of stabbing his girlfriend's ex-partner in Halesowen was dropped.

Ian Swinburne, aged 49, says he was acting in self defence after two intruders burst into the house where he was staying in Graham Road. David Carpenter, aged 47, of Yardley Close, Oldbury, died after suffering a stab wound to the chest in the incident, on February 3, at the home he used to share with Nicola Bennett in Graham Road.

Mr Swinburne, of Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, was charged with murder, as well as with assault causing actual bodily harm to another man, Mitchell White. But the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has now informed Mr Swinburne's solicitor, Mr Michael Davies,

that both the murder and the assault charges have been dropped.

Martin Lindop, sector crown prosecutor for the West Midlands, said: "As part of our continuing duty to keep cases under constant review, an additional statement was received from one of the key prosecution witnesses which provided medical evidence into the cause of Mr Carpenter's death."

"Having reviewed this new evidence, a decision was made to drop the charges against Mr Swinburne on the basis that there was now insufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction," he said.

Mr Swinburne's girlfriend Nicola Bennett, aged 46, said it has been a "terrible tragedy" for all involved.

Television

She said she and Mr Swinburne were watching television at her Halesowen home when Mr Carpenter, with whom she previously lived for more than 20 years, and another man broke through the front door.

"On the night this happened Ian and I feared for our lives and Ian reacted totally in self defence," said Miss Bennett.

"It's been an extremely distressing time for me and my family, for Ian and his family - and for David's family. I just want the truth to prevail."

When Mr Swinburne appeared before Dudley magistrates on February 7 his solicitor Michael Davies told the court that, in 27 years as a lawyer, he had "never come across a stronger case of self-defence." After hearing the charges had been dropped, Mr Davies said: "It was obvious the CPS was not going to be able to disprove his defence."

Mr Carpenter, 47, lived with Miss Bennett in Graham Road until Christmas, when he moved out. He died after being stabbed in the chest. Mr Swinburne, of Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, at the time of going to press was still in custody but Mr Davies is making an urgent application for him to be released immediately.

Honour for Lenny is agreed



Soon to be a Freeman of Dudley, comedian Lenny Henry

LENNY Henry is to be granted the Freedom of Dudley Borough after councillors voted for the idea - six months after it was first proposed.

Labour councillors pushed through the award for the Dudley-born comedian at a full council meeting on Monday night. A date will be set to award him the status.

The idea was proposed last September, but because councillors wanted to be clear about who qualified to be an Honorary Freeman, the decision was put back for a criteria to be set.

Opposition leader Patrick Harley then called for the criteria to be changed so only people who made a specific contribution to Dudley and its residents could be awarded Freedom of the Borough. But the proposed amendment was defeated.

Council leader David Sparks, who first tabled the motion for Lenny, described Councillor Harley's suggestion as "ridiculous".

He said: "This amendment would have excluded someone who made achievements nationally and internationally."

"It would mean someone could be educated at a Dudley School and go to a university somewhere else in the country, get a Nobel Prize for chemistry, but wouldn't get a freedom of the borough."

Councillor Sparks hinted the council could create a hall of fame following the setting of the new criteria.

He said: "Lenny Henry will go down in history."

"He is one of the comedians who has dealt with racism, having been at the hard end of the worst time of that period."

Vow over disruption in hospital roadworks

HEALTH chiefs have vowed to keep disruption caused by a four-week plan of roadworks outside Russells Hall Hospital to a minimum.

Dudley Council has warned of "considerable delays" when work to lay down anti-skid surfacing and paint new markings along a half-a-mile stretch of High Street in Pensnett starts on March 18.

The scheme will include the closure of one lane of the road and temporary traffic signals during off-peak times for traffic.

Hospital bosses said they would be working with the council to try to ensure the work did not cause too many problems for staff and visitors.

They were also advising patients to allow more time when travelling to the site for appointments. Outside of the off-peak times of between 9.30am and 3.30pm, the work will be downscaled to open up both lanes and aim to reduce disruption of traffic.

All parking, including disabled, will also be banned along the affected stretch of road from Church Street to the junction island on the A4101, which is next to the hospital's visitors' entrance.

A notice released by Dudley Council said considerable delays are to be expected. Advance warning signs will be placed by the council in key locations.

Ex-councillor Jack dies, 94

A FREEMAN of Dudley who served as a councillor in the borough for more than 50 years has died aged 94.

Jack Wilson MBE was given the Freedom of the Borough in 1989.

He was believed to be the longest-serving councillor in the country. He died at Broadway Halls Care Home in Dudley. He is survived by his wife of nearly 47 years, Margaret Wilson and his son, John Wilson. His funeral will be at Providence Baptist Church, in Providence Row, Colesey, at 2pm on March 6.

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Get rid of theatre, says principal

DUDLEY College's principal has called for the Dudley Hippodrome to be demolished – in a fresh blow to campaigners trying to safeguard the historic theatre.

Lowell Williams said bulldozing a theatre, which hosted acts such as George Formby, Laurel and Hardy and John Dodd, would support "wider regeneration".

He says the college, which is

investing £30 million in a new town centre campus, is enhancing Dudley and wants to support other projects with the same aim.

Friends of Dudley Hippodrome say reopening would also boost the town.

Dudley Council is looking at an application to remove it and create a temporary car park as a wider multi-million revamp of the Castle

Hill area gets under way. In a letter to the planning department, Mr Williams says college plans are doing much to enhance key gateways into Dudley and regenerate the town centre.

"Demolition of the former Gala Bingo hall would, we feel, further support the wider regeneration of the town. This prominent, over-dominant building has been vacant

for many years and has become a major eyesore in a highly visible and conspicuous gateway location.

"We consider that it blights views of the Castle and the Zoo, both of which are key heritage assets and visitor attractions for the town."

Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Living Museum back demolition

Parking fees plea on Merry Hill site

MERRY Hill is being urged to introduce parking charges and give struggling town centres in the region a fighting chance of survival.

Council bosses said the time had come for the Black Country's largest shopping centre to fall in line and introduce fees.

All of the region's big complexes, including Birmingham's Bullring, Wolverhampton's Mander Centre and Stafford's Guildhall, charge for parking.

Australian property giant Westfield, which runs the centre in Brierley Hill, has so far refused to be drawn on its plans for parking fees.

Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks, who is vice-chairman of the Local Government Association, said: "My own view is there should be parking charges so you pay your money but then you can claim it back from stores if you pay so much and have it validated."

Henry Carver, chairman of Wolverhampton Business Group, has been lobbying for cheaper parking in his city. He said: "I think that it's the only way."

No-one from Westfield was available for comment.

Action call on junction

ROAD improvements are being considered for a busy road junction where a pensioner was knocked down and killed in Brierley Hill after residents called on council bosses to take action.

At the first meeting of a new Brierley Hill community forum, councillors were told residents were concerned the existing crossings outside the police station were in a "dangerous" position. It comes after retired engineer Arnold Soulsby, aged 90, was knocked down in Bank Street.

At a meeting residents called for additional safety measures.

Dog theft plea

THE owners of a cocker spaniel, one of two stolen from a Bewdley home, have issued a fresh plea for the dog's safe return.

Eight-year-old Milo, who is worth up to £750, was taken on January 23. Milo is chocolate brown. Anyone with information can call 01299 403 256.

HERITAGE experts have condemned plans to demolish Dudley Hippodrome in stinging attacks which have been seized upon by campaigners hoping to protect the theatre.

Preservation organisation

The Theatres Trust has rubbished claims the boarded-up building is blighting the Castle Hill entrance to Dudley.

The trust's planning and heritage adviser Mark Price, in a letter to the council, said those sentiments could be made for any vacant building not regularly maintained.

At the same time, English Heritage officials have also asked for the views of campaigners to be taken into account before a final decision is taken to grant permission to tear down the theatre.

Mr Price said: "We believe the theatre has heritage significance, as it is a rare survival of an intact 1930s theatre. It makes a strong contribution to the 'local distinctiveness' of the area."

It is expected about 131 posts will go but 359 staff have expressed an interest in going in 2013/14.

The council said that despite the applications, it may still need compulsory redundancies.

The equivalent of about 18 full-time posts are expected to be affected said chief executive John Polychronakis in a report.

He said it was hoped many could be redeployed.

Of the 359, 178 were by staff in posts that could be considered for voluntary redundancy as they work in areas identified for potential budget savings but 181 were from departments not earmarked for job cuts.

Gaye Partridge, cabinet member responsible for human resources, said the figure of 131 was subject to change for a number of reasons, including changes in where savings are to take place and staff turnover.

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Sentiment

"We have seen claims that the theatre is a 'major visual blight', but would point out the same sentiment could be made for any vacant building that has not been used for a while and is not regularly maintained."

"To lose the theatre, a valuable community asset for short-term profit, and without a proper examination of the needs of the cultural facilities within the town, in our view is unacceptable."

Geoff Fitzpatrick of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome said: "We are grateful for the support as they show we are trying to put our case as best we can."

"The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome agree with that opinion and will fight Dudley Council in every way to save the theatre."

Service for Busby Babe Duncan



Rose Cook from Dudley who helped organise the memorial service for Duncan Edwards

TRIBUTES were paid to one of Dudley's most famous sons at a memorial service in Dudley.

The service honoured footballing legend and Busby Babe Duncan Edwards on the 55th anniversary of his death.

Relatives of the England and Manchester United player, civic leaders and representatives from the footballing world, gathered to pay their respects.

Edwards was killed, aged 21, in the Munich air disaster in which 23 passengers, including seven other players, perished.

The service was held at St Francis' Church on the Priory estate, Dudley, where a stained glass is dedicated him.

Around 40 people attended Thursday's service, including his cousins, local residents and children from Priory Primary School who gave readings during the ceremony.

Exhibition boards had been erected at the church focusing on Duncan's life story and memories of his career were also shared during the service.

It was organised by film-maker Rose Cook

who has produced an hour-long documentary telling the tale of his life from his days growing up in Dudley to walking out on the hallowed turf at Old Trafford.

Duncan's cousin John Edwards said: "It is brilliant that so many people still remember Duncan and I've had people from all over asking me about him even now." Rose, who lives in Woodside, Dudley, said she dreamed up the idea of the film on a chance visit to Duncan's grave around 15 years ago.

"There were so many flowers around and I'd obviously heard the name of Duncan Edwards but wanted to know more and I thought there really was a story to tell," she said.

Rose linked up with Wolverhampton television production broadcaster Network Five. During the filming, she grew close to Duncan's remaining family, including his first cousins Keith, 75, and John, 79, and second cousin Lawrence, 69, who attended the service.

The film is called And Then Came Munich.

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Bowling revamp job boost

A BOWLING centre in Dudley has been given a £250,000 revamp which has created six new jobs.

A soft play area and Costa Coffee shop are among the new additions to Bowlplex in Castlegate Way.

The centre was selected from the company's 17-strong chain to lead the refurbishment programme, which has been designed to offer families access to a greater range of indoor entertainment.

The new iKidz play area includes three slides, rope bridges, a huge ball-pool, a giant bowling ball which youngsters can climb inside to play interactive and educational games on iPads in there.

The Sports Hall features a timetable of activities for mothers and toddlers to come along to during the week at no extra charge, such as arts and crafts.

Rachael Pountney, who runs iKidz, said: "Before this, having just bowling limited what was on offer to younger visitors, as below the age of five or six, children had nothing to do."

Kevin Fyfe, who is the new general manager of the refurbished Bowlplex, said: "We were thrilled to be chosen as the flagship."

Investment in staff call

EMPLOYERS in the Black Country are being encouraged to invest in their workforce and create new jobs under a Government-backed scheme.

Dudley Council is inviting businesses in the borough to take part in the Employer Ownership of Skills fund initiative.

The scheme will assist businesses with money in projects aimed at raising the skill level of the employees and bringing new people in.

For more information visit www.ukces.org.uk/our-work/employer-ownership

The deadline for applications is April 13.

Course rewards

A GROUP of young people have been rewarded after successfully completing training in independent travel. The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram presented certificates to 14 students for achieving an entry level course run by the council and accredited by the National Open College Network.

Painting that is more monkey than Monet



Dorothy Jukes, of Hopton Bank, with Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock

IT wasn't just monkey business – but serious art as Cindy-Lou the creative chimpanzee got to work with her paint brushes at Dudley Zoo more than 50 years ago.

The celebrated chimp artist's paintings attracted international bids of up to 60 guineas – that's £63.

And, in those days, the average weekly wage was only just over £23.

Now a family living near Kidderminster has uncovered an original Cindy-Lou. It was found during a clearout – and has now been donated to the zoo. The chimp was famous for her artistic talents during the 1960s and used to

enjoy looking the part in a beret while painting her masterpieces in front of visitors. Cindy-Lou, who was one of five young chimps at the zoo in those days, used to sit on a stool and paint at an easel, with her keeper, Margaret Missenden, mixing oils and encouraging her to use the brush.

Now, Dorothy Jukes, who lives in Hopton Bank, has presented the zoo with a Cindy-Lou abstract that her late husband, Ted, bought at auction back in 1966. Mr Jukes, who was a journalist during the 1960s, covered the story of the chimpanzee's artistic career and liked the picture so much he bought it

at a London gallery.

Mrs Jukes said: "I was clearing a lot of bits and pieces out of the house and I wondered if the zoo would like the painting."

"I'm delighted they've accepted it and understand they will be framing it and displaying it in the new offices."

Dudley Zoo spokesman Jill Hitchman said: "We received a phone call from Dorothy Jukes and were thrilled to hear she had an original Cindy-Lou."

"She asked us if we would like the artwork for our archives – and we are now going to hang it in our new offices."



Cindy-Lou, then aged five, got creative with her brush at Dudley Zoo in 1966

Plans for zoo regeneration are given strong support

MULTI-million pound regeneration plans aimed at boosting Dudley's biggest tourist attractions have been on show to the public – and have won the support of residents.

Proposals for a new visitor information centre and new modern entrances to Dudley Zoo have been showcased as part of an exhibition and consultation last week.

The Zoo will be linked to the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust by a new road under the £10 million masterplan.

Dudley Council ran the public consultation, which featured artist impressions of such proposals as a new visitor information centre. This building would be at the centre of the redeveloped Castle Hill complex with information boards giving details on the three attractions for visitors as they drive onto the site.

The centre may be manned during high season to help visitors make the most of their experience. It would be positioned close to the new cars parks serving the venues off the link road.

Officials hope revamping the hillside location will boost visitor numbers to up to a million each year and put Dudley on the tourism map.

Consultation

People were able to fill in questionnaires and discuss the plans at consultation stands. Mother-of-two Julie Large, aged 45, of Elizabeth Walk, Tipton, said she was impressed with the Zoo already and the redevelopment would only enhance the attraction.

"Every time we come to the Zoo there have been changes and it has come on in leaps and bounds so this can only add to it," she said.

"The new designs look good and maybe they should consider creating a single ticket so you can visit all three," Rachel Pearson, aged 40, of Longbridge, Birmingham, had also penned her thoughts on a questionnaire. I'm very impressed by the plans," she said.

Dawn Nicholls, from the council's development partner New Heritage Regeneration, said they received feedback from around 100 people within the first two hours on Wednesday. The public consultation comes to an end on March 29.



Martin Yates, project manager for Dudley Council, front left, with Amy Large and Heather Pearson and back, from left, Dawn Nicholls, project manager from New Heritage, Julie Large and Rachel Pearson holding Isabella Pearson



An artist's impression of a possible visitor hub at Dudley Zoo that could be built as part of the multi-million pound revamp of the town's main tourist attractions



Martin Yates, project manager for Dudley Council, Kasey Smith and her father Daniel Smith, from Wrens Nest, with Dawn Nicholls, project manager from New Heritage

NEWS in brief

Vacant sites come under scrutiny

PROPERTIES left vacant or under-used since Wyre Forest District Council moved to new £10 million civic offices are to be considered for conversion to business start-up units and apartments.

Investigations into alternative uses for surplus property, including the Civic Centre at Stourport, have been called for by Liberal and Independent Group members.

They also want a review of car parking in Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley to be considered to enable some free spaces to be provided.

Fundraise show target is £1,800

A SONGS from the Shows concert to be staged at Dudley College is expected to raise £1,800 for charity.

The event, on March 1 at 7.30pm, is being organised by Pauline Jenkins, who runs the Leukaemia Unit Appeal Fund shops in Kent Street, Upper Gornal, and Fenton Street, Brockmoor. Tickets costing £5, including refreshments, are available on 07727 134358, from her shops or on the door.

Parking charges under spotlight

BUSINESSES will join a working party set up by Hagley Parish Council to look at whether to introduce parking charges in the village.

Parish councillor Jim Austin said Hagley Business Association had "welcomed" the move.

Councillor Margaret Pritchard said businesses feared parking issues would drive customers away from the village.

College aiming to get cash boost

STOURBRIDGE College aims to win a chunk of cash towards a new A-level block costing up to £5 million on its main site in the town.

The proposal follows hot on the heels of the college winning nearly £3m from the Government's enhanced renewal fund for a new health and social care centre, costing £4.5m, on the Hagley Road site.

Rare cow is born

ONE of only 800 Shetland cows still in existence worldwide has been born in Wyre Forest. The calf arrived at the Rifle Range Nature Reserve near Kidderminster

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NEWS

THE BEST
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THOSE bargain-mad Russians are already online, buying and selling what are claimed to be fragments of last week's meteorite. Hang on, comrades. Before parting with your hard-earned roubles, check out my exclusive collection. I have several bits of meteor, the tail from Halley's Comet, three rings from Saturn (never been used) and the rudder off Noah's Ark.

□□□□□□□□

IAIN Duncan Smith, the Work & Pensions Secretary, says he will force migrants from the EU to wait a full year before they can claim benefits. Home Secretary Theresa May says she will bring in new laws to chuck foreign criminals out of the UK. Reality check, please. The truth is that neither Mr Duncan Smith nor Mrs May, nor any other minister of what we used to call the Crown, can promise any such thing. As they know full well, any laws they pass are subject to EU legislation and the Euro-courts. And if our masters in Brussels and Strasbourg say every new arrival is to be given a free house, the right to vote and a bag of sweets, that's exactly what will happen. Readers sometimes ask me why we have 650 MPs at Westminster. You know, I haven't the faintest idea.

□□□□□□□□

IT IS a fact universally acknowledged that frumpy women of a certain age who have made their name from brilliant writing are always going to have a bit of a downer on slim, gorgeous chicks with cascading curls who marry princes. Hilary Mantel, the novelist, has denounced the Duchess of Cambridge as "plastic and 'personality-free.'" Julie Burchill, the columnist, joins the attack on the woman she calls "poor shiny, smiley Kate." You can't help looking at Mesdames Mantel and Burchill and suspecting that if they woke up tomorrow morning looking half as good as Kate they would both be altogether shinier and smilier, and a lot less unkind.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Runners brave the cold to raise cash for charity



Deputy Mayor Alan Finch congratulates the winner of the running race, Ross Jones, aged 32, from Fordhouses, Wolverhampton and Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletics Club

HUNDREDS of people braved the freezing temperatures to take on a five mile fun run and walk in aid of a Dudley charity.

Around 480 people put their best foot forward for the event at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital on Sunday. It is hoped it will have

raised £12,000 for Dudley charity Action Heart, which is based at the hospital.

The first runner over the line with a time of 26 minutes and 58 seconds was Ross Jones, 32, from Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, a member of Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club. He said: "Events like this are great, this is well organised."



Front from left, Emma Bourne and Georgia Witton, back from left: Wendy Bourne, Jane Mott, Ian Dawes, Neil Whitehouse, Graham Fentham, Hebe Whitehouse, Sue Witton and Jane Tibbitts from Stourbridge Running Club getting ready for the big race



The runners brave the cold weather to take part in the Action Heart charity event



Russell Tipson, Action Heart director, Joy Brown, fundraising officer and Paul Davies-Hale, organiser

Stuart Edgar, aged 43, from Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers was the first walker over the line. "It is nice to support local events," Wendy Bourne, 40, from Meadow Lane, Wombourne was with colleagues from the Green Team in Dudley, supporting Ian Dawes, 42, from Coseley, who has learning difficulties. Mother-of-two Mrs Bourne said: "I am a support worker and I

support Ian at Green Team Dudley." Jane Pugh, an A&E nurse at Russells Hall Hospital, was part of the Action Heart Running Club. The 46-year-old mother-of-three from Kingswinford, said: "We are taking part to raise the profile of the club." Action Heart spokeswoman Joy Brown said: "As well as 450 runners we had 30 walkers. We are pleased and it was good to see everybody."

Parking fees plea on Merry Hill site

MERRY Hill is being urged to introduce parking charges and give struggling town centres in the region a fighting chance of survival.

Council bosses said the time had come for the Black Country's largest shopping centre to fall in line and introduce fees.

All of the region's big complexes, including Birmingham's Bullring, Wolverhampton's Mander Centre and Stafford's Guildhall, charge for parking.

Australian property giant Westfield, which runs the centre in Brierley Hill, has so far refused to be drawn on its plans for parking fees.

Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks, who is vice-chairman of the Local Government Association, said: "My own view is there should be parking charges so you pay your money but then you can claim it back from stores if you pay so much and have it validated."

Dog theft plea

THE owners of a cocker spaniel, one of two stolen from a Bewdley home, have issued a fresh plea for the dog's safe return.

Eight-year-old Milo, who is worth up to £750, was taken on January 23. Milo is chocolate brown. Anyone with information can call 01299 403 256.

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More young are using libraries

THE number of children using libraries across the Dudley borough has soared, new figures show.

Council bosses said the amount of loans taken out by youngsters increased by four per cent or 17,000.

The rise saw children's borrowing figures go up to 440,389 issues in 2011/12, compared with 423,368 the previous year.

Leaders say new technology such as free e-books and new titles being added to the library stock had contributed to the surge.

Meanwhile more than 3,000 borough children, aged between four and 12, took part in the Summer Reading Challenge in 2012.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "It is really encouraging to see children and young people enjoying reading and all that their local libraries have to offer."

Meanwhile the total number of visitors to libraries is also up in Dudley from 1,201, 850 visits in 2010/11 to 1,202,000 in 2011/12, figures released last month showed.

Council leaders have put the increase down to the range of activities now offered at libraries.

Link road closer

A NEW link road aiming to cut congestion through Kidderminster has moved a step closer as council chiefs bid for £5 million to make the scheme a reality. The route will divert traffic away from the town centre. Leaders are applying for a share of a £170m fund.

Dudley diner duchess Vicky shares cooking show's prize

AFTER a hard-fought week of culinary triumphs and disasters, Vicky Pell, the self-proclaimed Duchess of Dudley, and banker Mandeep Rajput were forced to share the winnings on Come Dine With Me.

Both scored 28 out of 40 and triumphed over fellow Black Country residents Adam, Sarah and Di, on the TV show where contestants judge each other's skills as a host and as a cook.

Dog groomer and gran-of-three Vicky, who sat on a leather sofa with the arms of fellow contestant Adam Reece draped around her as she heard the results, said afterwards: "It wouldn't have bothered me if I hadn't won, if I'm honest."

"I've met some lovely people and had a fantastic dining experience."

Vicky had to take a break from her own business called Vicky's Dog Grooming Parlour and Pet Shop in Quarry Bank High Street, for the show.

With her husband, David - now nicknamed the Duke of Dudley - at her side, Vicky was one of five dinner hosts anxiously tuning into Channel 4 last week to watch the show, which was filmed five months ago.

Fellow winner Mandeep Rajput was the first to host with a night featuring Indian cuisine and saucy Bhangra dancing. The 38-year-old dad turfed out his wife Vijay, 35, and children Jai, eight, and Maya, five, for the television cameras to roll into his detached home in Speakers Close, Oldbury, at 8.30am.

Mandeep, who works as a business development manager for Clydesdale and Yorkshire bank, said: "When I found out I'd won it was great news but I should have won clear, I think. If I'd had to share I would have chosen to share with Vicky but everybody said that, by far, my night came across as the best." Mandeep said he was trying to organ-



Sparkling - Vicky Pell, the Duchess of Dudley



The Come Dine with Me contestants group together

ise a reunion of the five contestants but, while four of them were keen, he had not been able to get hold of Amblecote businesswoman Sarah Freeman.

"We all had a right laugh and I got on with everybody. You've got to be thick-skinned to be on a show like that." Although it has been five months since the contestants opened their homes to a group of strangers to impress them with their culinary skills.

But while there may have been heat in the kitchen the guests who were thrust together for the show insist they have made friends for life and still stay in touch.

Mandeep said: "I met many good people who I am still in touch with today."

Larger-than-life pub quiz host Adam Reece, who ordered his guests to turn up in pyjamas, said he had jumped at the chance to be on the show after narrowly missing out when it was in Wolverhampton in 2011.

Narrowly

The 26-year-old, who lives with his mother Joanne in Sanderling Rise, Kingswinford, spent £350 to impress his guests - way over the £125 each contestant is given. The former Kingswinford School pupil,

who now works as assistant manager at Speedy Cash store in Dudley while also running quizzes at the Glassworks pub in Wordsley, added: "It was a great experience, but it also showed me the fakery of television filming."

For the filming in the cab at the end, we all share one cab and driving round in circles before swapping.

Meanwhile, Duchess of Dudley, Vicky Pell has been watching the show with husband David. Holding a cruise ship themed evening, she received her hubby's help to make over their home for the day of filming.

NEWS in brief

£6m hotel given the green light

PLANS for a £6 million hotel and restaurant on a main gateway in to Stourbridge have been given the go-ahead by borough councillors.

The Premier Inn will be built on land just off Birmingham Street after the scheme was unanimously approved.

The 80-bed hotel and Brewers Fayre restaurant is expected to create 43 full-time and 22 part-time jobs, as well as positions during its construction.

The hotel will have its own access road to be built off Birmingham Street.

Free safety course for older drivers

A FREE safety course is being offered to older drivers in Dudley.

The Driving Safer for Longer course, which will be held at Brockmoo Community Centre next month, is aimed at people aged 50 and over. The free course will run on March 2 from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Light refreshments will be available. Places can be booked by calling Dudley Road Safety and Travel Awareness Team on 01384 815433 or emailing rsafety.due@dudley.gov.uk

Manor to reopen

AN Elizabethan moated manor house is to reopen to the public on March 2-3 for a Medieval Living History event. Volunteers at Harvington Hall, near Kidderminster will recreate life more than 600 years ago.

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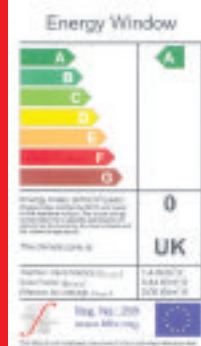
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NEWS

School is stripped of its teacher training status

A SCHOOL in Dudley which helped new teachers get a foothold in the industry has been stripped of its status by education bosses.

Hillcrest School and Community College in Netherton, has lost its National Teaching School status. The school said it was disappointed, but pledged to maintain high standards of education. Officials from the National College for School Leadership, which is an executive agency of the Department for Education, said it did not comment on individual schools.

But it did say those which did not continue to meet teaching schools criteria could have their status removed.

Hillcrest was given the National Teaching School status, usually granted for four years, subject to it continuing to meet the eligibility criteria.

These criteria include having a track record of successful relationships with other schools and having an "outstanding" grade inspections from Ofsted in key areas such as teaching and learning and leadership and management. Other areas considered when awarding the status are the consistently high levels of pupil performance, help given to other schools and a high quality of teacher training.

Hillcrest headteacher, April Garratt, said: "Obviously we are disappointed that our teaching school status has not been renewed. We will continue to maintain the very high standards of education here at Hillcrest."

Dance contest for charity

YOUNG dancers in Dudley are being invited to take part in a national competition for charity. The British Red Cross is calling on schools, colleges and youth groups to enter this year's Dance: Make Your Move contest. Junior groups must be aged between four and 11. The senior category is open to 12 to 18 year-olds. To enter or for more information, call 02476 304 200.

Primary among the best



Headteacher Sue Williams, with a framed letter from David Laws, Minister of State for Schools, with, from left, Carla Russell, aged nine, Sam Satchwell, 10, deputy headteacher Jan Robinson, Nafisha Naz, six, and Oliver Nock, seven

A DUDLEY primary school is living up to its motto of "believing is achieving" - after being judged to be among the top 100 out of 25,000 in the country for making progress.

Headteacher Sue Williams could "hardly believe it" when an official notification landed on her desk telling her Northfield Primary, Netherton had been singled out for special praise.

It was from David Laws, Minister of State for Schools, congratulating her on the news that Northfield Primary was in the top 100 for "sustained progress" over three years.

The accolade is based on improvements in the pupils' Key Stage II

tests. "I was absolutely thrilled and so very proud of what our staff and wonderful children have achieved together," said Mrs Williams.

"The enormity of what we have achieved is still sinking in - the fact that out of over 25,000 primary schools in England, we are in the top 100 for sustained progress."

"It hasn't happened without determination and commitment to wanting the absolute best for the youngsters of Northfield Road Primary."

Mrs Williams said clear targets were set for each of the 370 children at the school, with an emphasis on each one's individual needs.

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LETTERS

Council deserves pats on back

AS someone who has never held back from criticising Dudley councils of all political persuasions on numerous occasions in the past, I'm delighted to be able to praise and congratulate them on two counts.

Firstly, their intention to freeze council tax again this year.

My wife and I both filled in a "Big Question" questionnaire, even though we were of the opinion that the consultation was probably just a stunt.

It seems we were wrong and that the public have indeed been listened to on this issue.

Which leads me on to my second pat on the back for the council.

The first of the new Community Forum meetings, which have been set up to replace Area Committee meetings, took place at St Thomas' Network, Kates Hill, Dudley, on Monday February 11 and was generally considered a success.

The Area Committee meetings tended to be too formal, cumbersome and expensive and the previous Tory controlled council in Dudley reduced their number to two meetings a year from five.

To their credit, the present council has now introduced community forums which not only give people more opportunity during the meetings to raise concerns about issues in their local areas, but also, because they are less formal with fewer council officers in attendance and thereby cheaper to stage, it's made it possible to increase their number back to five a year again. Local democracy in action.

Well done Dudley Council.
MR R A SARGEANT
Rosland Estate
Dudley

Rosy view over costs of care for the elderly

CHRIS Kelly MP for Dudley South, certainly made me smile this week, with his rose tinted spectacles view of the cost of care.

This is another smoke and mirrors attempt at trying to pull the wool over people's eyes, they pat themselves on the back for proposing costs for elderly care at £75,000, with the state offering help for those who have up to £123,000 in assets.

They say this will end the 'scandal' of people having to sell their homes or raid savings to fund their old age. More like a load of bull. The value of most houses in the UK has quadrupled, or increased tenfold.

Well the Conservative way is, if your money runs out "tough luck". Or to put it another way, we'll tax you until you die. That is if you live to pick up a pension at 75.

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD
Chase Road
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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HS2 on track to be new white elephant

WHY would anyone in their right mind want to get to London quicker? I can understand wanting to get out quicker.

One day, in the near future, this country is going to be faced with a major problem, where can we keep, all the "white elephants" we have created? To name just three - The Dome, The M6 Toll Road, and soon, the HS2.

How does it benefit mankind, if businessmen can arrive 20 minutes sooner, for a meeting that could take place by telephone?

Surely priorities are misplaced. We are informed, we desperately need thousands of new homes, instead of a rail track, couldn't we build a few thousand homes on that strip of land? With £32 billion at hand, what a step forward for this country - all those brand new homes - instead of a train that ordinary passengers would not be able to afford to use.

By all means improve the rail system that we have, but first and foremost, build houses, somewhere to live, not an expensive toy which will finish up with the other "white elephants", grazing in Parliament Square.

ALAN SMITH
Netherton

Warning on new coins in machines

RE: MOTORISTS being exploited when car parking.

On August 14 last year we parked in Gardners Meadow in Bewdley. I always make sure we're covered for up to five hours. The fees at this time were two hours for £1.20, three for £2 and between three and 24 hours £3.10.

As I pressed the button for the ticket the 10p coin ejected from the machine. It was a new one.

As I'd paid the bulk of the charge, I thought a reasonable person would understand that I was not attempting to cheat.

When we returned we found a ticket fining us £50!

As a pensioner I appealed but was told that no machines of these were faulty.

I have read since then that some parking machines will not accept new coins.

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NEWS

Traders not sure over traffic-busting scheme

A CONGESTION-busting scheme through Brierley Hill town centre has been met with apprehension from some town traders.

Four bays for hour-long unloading and parking will be introduced along the town's busy High Street as part of the trial idea this weekend.

The bays, which will hold up to nine cars, will be positioned on the opposite side of the road to the library and be joined by four disabled parking areas.

On the library side of the road, double yellow lines will be painted to ban any parking from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday.

The £100,000 trial scheme, which started Sunday, is aimed at cutting traffic and providing quick parking for shoppers. But not every trader is fully behind the plan.

Rob Mantle, owner of Coffee Uno and BHF Florists in the High Street, said: "I know its difficult, because you cannot please everyone - but where will I be able to do my unloading throughout the day?"

"The parking spaces will fill up and I won't have space to do it, we need bays just for unloading."

He added: "I don't know what can be done - footfall along here is not good, we would not be able to survive on it solely alone."

Chairman of Brierley Hill Traders Association, Shane Birch-Bastock, has welcomed the move.

He said the scheme would stop people blocking the road by illegally parking.

Recycled playground



Enjoying new play equipment at Dawley Brook Primary School in Kingswinford are Councillor Dave Tyler, Councillor Lynn Boleyn and Derek Air, eco schools co-ordinator, with pupils

A PLAYGROUND, made of recycled materials, has been built after £4,700 was raised over two years at a Dudley school.

Among new pieces for the children to play on at the Dubarry Avenue site are chained walking areas.

The playground is an addition and part replacement to an existing one, also bought with money raised from fundraising events. The school

chose the playground because it is made from recycled materials and blends in with the natural environment which Dawley Brook wanted in order to be an eco-friendly school.

The school is also very proud to have been the first in the Dudley borough to have a heating system fuelled by recycled pellets. They have twice been awarded with the Green Flag and they have a pupil-run Eco Committee.

Inquest on man adjourned

AN inquest has opened on a man who was stabbed in the chest in Halesowen. David Carpenter died, aged 49, in Graham Road on February 3. At Smethwick Coroner's Court, Black Country coroner Robin Balmain adjourned the inquest on Mr Carpenter, who lived in Yardley Close, Oldbury. Ian Swinburne, 49, of Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, is charged with murdering Mr Carpenter.

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NEWS

School anniversary



Youngsters at Halesowen CofE Primary School with Headteacher Angela Hannaway and Deputy Head Steve Payne as they hold an exhibition for its 175th anniversary

CHILDREN'S artworks are brightening up the walls at a primary school in Halesowen to mark its 175th anniversary. Halesowen C of E Primary School is celebrating the milestone year with an exhibition of pupils' paintings and sculptures in the main hall.

Headteacher Angela Hannaway said: "The school has a very rich history and has changed a considerable amount in its time. We felt it was important to look ahead to the future, which is why we decided to do something different to celebrate the anniversary."

"We've been working towards this since the start of the year and all the work is looking fantastic," she added.

The school invited parents to an evening viewing of the display on February 25, before opening to the public on February 26 and 27.

The collection includes works from all of the school's pupils, from colourful rag rugs to self-portraits and clay models in the style of Pablo Picasso.

The students were inspired during recent school trips where nursery and reception children saw sculptures at the Belle Vue Primary School, Stourbridge, and all other classes visited West Bromwich art gallery The Public.

Borough is a hotspot for divorce, claims study

DUDLEY is the Black Country's divorce hotspot, according to new figures. At Dudley County Court, 982 people filed for divorce in the year up to September 2012.

The second highest number of petitions received was in Walsall, with 754. Stafford Combined Court Centre, which covers a large part of the county, received 697 applications while Wolverhampton's Combined Court Centre had 653 over the same period.

Across the country, Birmingham topped the whole list of figures compiled by the Ministry of Justice, with 2,799 petitions in the same year.

The numbers have been released as part of a Government drive to encourage couples who wish to separate to make use of publicly-funded mediation services instead of ending up in courtroom battles.

Trevor Forrester, manager of Relate counselling services in Wolverhampton and Dudley, said: "Relate welcomes this commitment to mediation to help keep couples out of the court system."

"We believe that GPs and employers have a role to play in helping people get help sooner by increasing the access points available."

"It is not the hotspots of

where in the country people are getting divorce that is crucial but the 'hot points' in people's relationships where they feel under pressure that is important."

Reverend Raphael Duckett, Vicar of St Martin's Church in Bradley, added pre-marriage courses were available for couples, as well as courses in marriage enrichment to try and avoid separations.

He said: "Communication is the big thing and marriage is all about mutual support."

Chiefs at the ministry have already announced they will spend £25million to support publicly-funded mediation this year and said new laws are being created to ensure all separating couples consider mediation to settle details of their divorce, before they take their dispute to court.

by Alex Homer

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NEWS



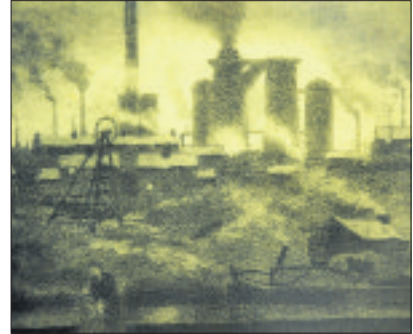
Smoke-filled air at Springvale Foundry, Wolverhampton



Butler Bayliss' painting Pig Beds - Tapping A Furnace



Three gaunt figures close to a Darlaston blast furnace



An aquatint-technic etching of Bilston blast furnaces



A stoker feeding or poking the fierce fire of a Black Country furnace



An Evening in the Black Country - workers making their way home

Artist captured stark landscape of our past

by Tim Spiers

TO some, scenes of dark, smoke-filled industrial landscapes which gave the Black Country its name wouldn't exactly pass as being an artist's dream.

But Edwin Butler Bayliss - the son of a local ironmaster who went on to become an inspirational and celebrated painter - thought differently.

His work depicting areas like Bilston, Tipton and Wednesbury documented the Black Country at the height of its industrial growth and is today still of huge historical and cultural importance.

And now art lovers can see for themselves just why Butler Bayliss is so revered in an exhibition of his work which is being held at Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street.

Butler Bayliss was born in 1874, the eldest of eight children and

grew up in Merridale Road, Wolverhampton, before later moving to The Woodhouse, Wood Road, Tettenhall.

Aged 14 he was sent to study at Rydal School in Colwyn Bay - a strong influence on his seaside artworks - before returning to Wolverhampton aged 18. It was at this time that he began to prolifically paint scenes of the Black Country, working in a range of mediums including oil and pastel.

He certainly doesn't sugarcoat the conditions in which people lived back then, showing the Black Country as a smoke-filled and dangerous place to live and work.

Paintings often show figures silhouetted against a dull, grey sky and ravaged landscapes with blast furnaces and chimneys in the background.

Butler Bayliss, known as the

'poet-painter of the Black Country', carved a niche for himself as the foremost painter of the Black Country landscape.

He took his work across the country from London to Scotland and to some his chief subject matter was surprising as his father Samuel Bayliss was a managing director of the large local iron foundry Bayliss, Jones and Bayliss.

Despite not having any formal artistic training, Butler Bayliss decided not to follow in his father's footsteps and took up painting.

The 1901 census listed him as 'artist sculptor, annuitant living at home' so he had clearly decided to concentrate full-time on painting when in his late 20s.

He later moved to The Beeches in nearby Regis Road, which became a social base for many other Black Country artists.

The exhibition, which also shows his pictures of the West coastline, run until April 27.



Caponfield Furnaces in Sedgley depicts a clear sky with vibrant green tufts of grass



Brooding clouds as people trek along what Bayliss called A Staffordshire Highway



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CLUB NEWS

Illness a factor in numbers

K-FORD TWG

KINGSWINFORD Townswomen's Guild met on February 11 at the community centre.

Numbers were somewhat low due to illness and the threat of bad weather.

Chairman Mrs Enid Fennell checked everyone had received subscription envelopes, and reminded members they should be returned to the treasurer as soon as possible.

It was announced that Sue Wilson had agreed to take over as treasurer when Mrs Farmer relinquishes the post.

Mrs Fennell read the Federation Report and reminded members that the federation AGM was open to all paid-up members.

The section organisers gave details of forthcoming events. An outline of next year's programme was read out for the approval of members and minor adjustments made.

The speakers for the evening were Gemma Bradley and Amanda Bowden who gave us a lot of tips on keeping well and safe as we get older.

They also described what help is available to ensure the wellbeing of older people. Some of the devices are free, some are available for purchase.

Josie Smith was thanked for bringing flowers for the Chairman's table. Joan Graham won the raffle.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on March 11.

Arts and crafts raise £600 for cancer care



Macmillan Cancer Support area representative Natalie Bridges receives the cheque

THE Arts and Crafts section of the Sedgley Evening Townswomen's Guild recently held an open day for charity.

The members of the organisation sold their work to other members and to visitors to raise money for cancer support.

The artwork raised £600 this year which the group said was "an extremely good result from a group of about 30 members."

Macmillan Cancer Support was the chosen charity and area representative Natalie

SEDGLEY EVENING TWG

Bridges, received the cheque after giving the group an insight into the work they do.

The TWG's speaker this month was David Lound who gave an unusual presentation about the Titanic. New members or visitors are always welcome at the meetings which are held at 7.15pm in Sedgley Community Association's Hall.

Talk of Brunel on cards

WEDNESBURY Probus Club, for retired gentlemen, will be staging a series of interesting events over the next few months.

The club meets every third Wednesday in the month at St Bartholomew's Church Hall and this month we shall be having a talk about Compton Hospice.

WEDNESBURY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

Future speakers will be covering subjects such as Isambard Kingdom Brunel, A History of Friar Park and an intriguing talk entitled "...and the bride wore" which we are given to understand is not just about

dress. There will be a fish and chip supper organised for April 6 at the Wesley Centre, Wednesbury where entertainment will come from David Bartley with some Black Country humour. The group also has a coach trip to Cambridge in May and a holiday for five days to Southport in June.

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NEWS

Memorial bench planned for victim of hit-and-run

THE family of a great-grandfather of seven, who was killed in a hit-and-run incident, is hoping to organise a memorial park bench in his name.

Retired bricklayer Bernard Betts, aged 85, was knocked down outside his home in Barrs Road, Cradley Heath, as he left to take his dog Jack for a walk.

His son Les said they were planning to approach the council about installing the bench in Hayden Hill Park, where his father would take Jack every day.

The idea was mooted last week when dozens of Mr Betts's friends and relatives attended his funeral at Rowley Regis Crematorium.

"We don't know exactly where we want to put the bench yet," said Les, a teacher at Walsall College.

"We will have to contact the council and get permission. We have no idea how much it will cost but we all agree it will be a fitting tribute."

Meanwhile police say they have received "some information" on the back of a poster appeal to find the driver responsible.

A local newspaper joined forces with West Midlands Police to launch the campaign earlier this month.

"The police are keeping their cards close to their chests but we understand they have made some progress," added Les.

"We really want justice to be done. My father was a fit man and then bang; this person has turned our lives upside down. It has caused so much disruption. I would not wish it on anyone. I would love it if the poster campaign does tweak someone's conscience."

New date of poets final

THE final of the Worcestershire Young Poet Laureate competition will take place in March it has been announced. It had been due to be held in Pershore but was postponed. It will take place at 4pm on March 24 at Number 8 Community Theatre.

Poorly primate place



Carpenters Rob Jurcenko, from Tipton, and Geoff Benbow, from West Bromwich, who have created a convalescence bay for poorly monkeys

POORLY primates at Dudley Zoo now have a convalescence bay thanks to two volunteers.

Geoff Benbow, from West Bromwich, and Rob Jurcenko, from Tipton, have been putting their carpentry skills to good use at the attraction for the past two years.

Their latest contribution, the conversion of office space within Monkey Tails rainforest experience, took two months to complete and will enable staff to keep a close eye on any monkeys with allergies.

Keeper Nicola Wright, said: "We are very grateful to Geoff and Rob as the new areas are situated right by the staff room, which means we can keep a closer eye on any poorly animals."

"We will be able to keep a constant watch over them and they will also benefit from the extra social interaction."

Small primates based at the walk through enclosure include squirrel monkeys, saki monkeys and emperor tamarins.

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Community work order for woman in £500 theft

A WOMAN who stole £500 from the store where she worked has been ordered to carry out community work.

Toni Anderson, aged 34, of Jubilee Gardens in Kidderminster, was employed at Sports Direct in the town.

Kidderminster Magistrates' Court heard the store was building up to the pre-Christmas sales rush on December 10 when Anderson committed her crime.

Prosecuting, Miss Kerry Lovegrove said: "She was employed at that time as a customer service assistant."

"When the store's assistant manager cashed up at the end of that day, he found there was £500 missing."

Miss Lovegrove said Anderson was later spotted on CCTV taking money from customers as they purchased their goods and then putting it straight in her pocket.

If that was not possible, she was seen putting the cash aside and putting it in her pocket later.

When she was interviewed by police, Anderson told them that she had stolen the money to help her partner pay the rent.

At court Anderson admitted a charge of stealing from her employer.

Her solicitor David Howarth said that, despite her admission, she lived by herself.

He added: "She is in rent arrears of about £1,000."

Magistrates told Anderson she must complete 80 hours of community work within 12 months. She was also ordered to pay £500 compensation to her former employers.

Reptile revamp started

WORK is under way on a £15,000 revamp of the reptile house at Dudley Zoo.

Staff are remodelling the enclosures and installing timber flooring and cladding to walls around the public-viewing corridors. A new glazed entrance is also being constructed.

Chief executive Peter Suddock said: "Our collection of reptiles is very popular with the public, and while the refurbishment it will also make the reptile house more attractive for visitors."

"We have a new team of reptile keepers working within the section and they have come up with some strong ideas for the enclosures which they are undertaking throughout winter."

He added: "The revamp will herald a new era for the Reptile House which is now becoming an even bigger favourite with many of our members."

The reptile house, which was opened in May 1956 by Sir Peter Scott, includes African spurred tortoise, bearded dragon, boa constrictor, rainbow boa, Burmese python, dwarf crocodile, several types of iguana, spur-thigh tortoise and white-throated monitor lizard within its collection.

The work is part of improvements planned this year which also include a new £15,000 walkway to make it easier for visitors to get around the site.

Meanwhile work has been completed on a bespoke convalescence bay for poorly primates. It has been created by Geoff Benbow, from West Bromwich, and Rob Jurczenko, from Tipton, who volunteered their carpentry skills.



Keepers Sam Grove and Ian Kirk remodel the reptile house

Pub facelift to bring jobs

A pub in Ambleside will call last orders in March to undergo a massive makeover it hopes will create new jobs.

The Corn Exchange will get a £150,000 makeover after it closes for nine days from Monday, March 4.

The investment will see the pub fitted with new HD TVs, new furniture and a refurbished bar with updated guest toilets.

The kitchen will also have new equipment. Five part-time positions on the bar and in the kitchen are also being filled.

Anyone interested should call 01384 262753.

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FOCUS ON CRADLEY, CRADLEY HEATH & OLD HILL**Musicians will raise brass for Sally Army**

SOME of the region's top brass players will perform in Cradley Heath with one of the country's best choirs to raise money for charity.

The West Midlands Band of the Salvation Army and Voices Together, a choir from the North East, will perform a show at the Salvation Army Citadel, Meredith Street, Cradley Heath on March 15 from 7.30pm.

A mixture of modern and classical tunes will be played by the two groups with all funds going to the Salvation Army, to help with its work in the region.

Tickets are £6 each and are available from organiser Richard Campbell on 07708 180820 or can be purchased at the door on the night of the show.

Baggies' stars face a grilling

FORMER West Bromwich Albion stars are to face a grilling at Old Hill cricket club.

Cyrille Regis and Richard Sneekes will be quizzed on their time at the Baggies at the cricket club in Haden Hill Park Road, Cradley Heath on March 8 from 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/old-hillcc or can be bought from Danny Cox on 07411 647364.

Residents start petition to solve heavy lorries problem

MORE than 80 people have signed a petition calling for action to be taken stop heavy lorries and vehicles speeding along a Cradley Heath road.

Residents, who fear lives may be put at risk, want more signs put up on Waterfall Lane warning drivers that it is illegal for vehicles heavier than 7.5 tonnes to drive through without permission.

They fear that unless the problem is addressed it could result in deaths and property damage.

Concerned resident Jackie Lloyd, aged 57, has had personal experience of the problem and started the petition after a car crashed into her front garden, stopping six feet from her bedroom.

She said: "Other residents tell me this has been an ongoing problem for more than 28 years - and the vehicles are getting much bigger and faster."

"We are talking about 40-tonne wagons. They don't care."

"They all fail to remember that anything that heavy coming at a speed could have to swerve to get out of the way of cars. Someone could get killed. People walk along here with children to get to school. We don't want any HGVs over 7.5 tonnes coming down our road, full

by Will Ackermann

stop, including buses and coaches.

"How it's stopped is up to the police and the council. We need a calming influence on the road."

"We have got nothing on the road warning people not to speed."

"All we have got is a 'no access' sign and they are taking no notice. There needs to be better signage."

Councillor Bridges, who presented the petition to a local forum, said: "We had a good response from the Blackheath Neighbourhood Forum when we handed them this petition."

"The police have also said they realise it is a problem and that they will look into it."

"We are hoping it will go forward with the council, too, and we are expecting it to go to cabinet."

Councillor Malcolm Bridges is planning to present the petition to Sandwell Council on March 5.

Mission volunteers plant for the future



Volunteers who have planted trees at the reserve are from left - back row, Narmesh Loi, Balbir Rai Singhani, Kuldeep Roopra, Ricky Bhatia, Sukesh Loi, Sanjay Arora, front from left, Arpit Loi, Sehajit Seimar, Pritika Bhatia and Sanchit Loi

VOLUNTEERS have been planting for the future at a nature reserve in Cradley Heath.

More than 100 trees including oak and hawthorn have been planted at Corngreaves Nature Reserve, which is part of Haden Hill Park, Halesowen Road.

Volunteers from Sant Nirankari Mission, which has a base in Wednes-

bury, planted the trees to mark the annual Guru Pooja Divas festival. Rick Bhatia, from the mission, said: "This is to create a great appreciation for the environment and environmental issues. We are taking youngsters into the community in the local area, and showing them how this tree planting will make it a better place for the whole community. We've been doing this

across the country during February. People everywhere have appreciated the efforts."

"The trees we've planted will really enhance the environment and make it even more beautiful. We saw some of the Millennium Forest trees planted in 2,000 and they're already pretty tall."

The trees were provided by the Jubilee Woods Project.

Gate firm is to shut up after 48 years

A CRADLEY Heath gate making company that has been trading for nearly 50 years has been forced to close due to the economic downturn.

Craddas Security Services on Oak Street Industrial Park was established by the late Bill Craddas and his brother Len started the business in 1965 and at one time employed 20 staff.

Bill's Son and the current owner 59-year-old Graham Craddas of Quarry Bank said the recession of 2007-2008 had been the beginning of the end for the company and that it had become too much of a struggle to keep the company going.

The company had also been hit by a rise in rent after Sandwell Council sold the industrial estate to a private property company.

Police to hold public surgery

CRADLEY Heath residents will be able to voice their concerns at a police surgery later this month.

Police officers from Cradley Heath and Old Hill neighbourhood will be at the event at Haden Hill Park on March 9 from 10am.

Visit www.west-midlands.police.uk.

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Burnt Tree 'is scandalous'

A MULTI-million pound scheme opened to ease congestion through the heart of Dudley has been described as "scandalous" by the leader of the borough council.

Councillor David Sparks has called for urgent improvements to the Burnt Tree traffic light junction, which cost £12.3 million and was opened less than two years ago.

Speaking at a recent full council meeting, he said the benefits of the lay-out to traffic were being undermined by the junction to Tesco Extra.

He claimed too much priority was being given to traffic from the supermarket and called for an investigation into the system. He suggested the lights at

the Tesco junction should be recalculated, or a give-way junction be installed instead.

He said: "The Burnt Tree situation is nothing short of scandalous.

"£12.3m of public money was spent on that junction and two years' disruption was experienced by people at it. I defy anyone in the council to go down there in the rush hour during the week and avoid traffic.

Precedent

"What has happened is we have managed to spend £12.3m on improving traffic flow and then letting a supermarket take precedent."

Tesco Extra opened months after the junction was completed, in June 2011.

The Burnt Tree junction is a notorious spot for queues during rush hour peri-

ods. Councillor Sparks said: "We need to ensure we have a road network around this site and around Dudley town centre that meet the needs of motorists today and the added need for future visitors.

"We need to ensure the timings on the lights are appropriate and also ensure traffic on the road has priority over traffic in and out of Tesco."

Councillor Sparks made the call as the council prepares to make a joint bid with Wolverhampton City Council for further improvements at the junction of the Birmingham New Road and Shaw Road in Coseley.

The authorities plan to bid for Government funding for the £1.3m project, which would see pedestrian crossings, the removal of transport barriers and an new right-turn from Birmingham New Road.

What a difference a day makes in calendar gaffe



Missing date in September

WHOOOPS! The district of Coseley is missing a date. But the omission of September 2 may make the 2013 edition of Coseley's calendar a "unique" collector's item, say its producers.

The calendar is an annual labour of love by historian Beryl Wilkes and her son John, featuring old and new photographs of local landmarks and information about the past and present.

However, they have just discovered a printers' error in the 2013 edition, when September skips straight from the first to the third, throwing all of the days of the month out of kilter.

Mrs Wilkes, aged 79, of The Paddock, Coseley, said: "We are devastated about it. I would feel awful if anybody was trying to book a holiday or something else important in September and got it wrong because of our calendar. But, looking on the bright side, it will make the 2013 Coseley calendar unique."

Bump into new friends

FORGET speed dating. Speed Bumps is the new way to meet people – but only if you are pregnant.

Stourbridge and Halesowen parents-to-be are invited to a social evening to help them meet new friends.

Speed Bumps, organised by the Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the National Childbirth Trust, is on March 13 from 8pm until 9.30pm at the Bonded Warehouse, 2 Canal Street, Stourbridge DY8 4LU.

Admission is £3 per couple, and places must be pre-booked. Call Nikki on 01384 349263 or email stourbridge-halesowen-net@hotmail.co.uk

Mayor opens library's new site



Mayor Melvin Mottram with Northfield Road Primary School's choir, back from left, library manager Sharon Whitehouse, customer Gill Nicklin, mayoress Michelle Mottram, Jasone Andonegui-Richards and Ian Stinston of Black Country Housing and head Sue Williams

SCORES of people attended the official opening of Netherton Library's new home.

The library moved to the Savoy Centre in Northfield Road last year, and Dudley Council put on the extravaganza and welcomed families at the weekend.

The move was controversial, with some councillors objecting on the grounds that money should be spent instead on the former library in Netherton Arts Centre, where it had been for more than a century.

The council decided on the transfer, saying the library's new premises would save money and improve access for disabled people and people with pushchairs.

It was all smiles and fun for the official launch of the new venue. Children's favourite Peppa Pig was among the attractions at the event.

Visitors also enjoyed stories and crafts during the morning as well as a performance by the Northfield Road Primary School choir. The official opening was carried out by the mayor of Dudley, Councillor Melvin Mottram. Meanwhile, drama lovers were

kept entertained by Dudley Little Theatre who performed a rehearsal of their forthcoming production of Jane Eyre.

The event was topped off with a ukulele group performance.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "Although Netherton Library moved into the Savoy Centre last year, we wanted to mark the partnership of these two very important community facilities. The move to the Savoy Centre has been really well received by the public who are enjoying the modern facilities."

Councillor Ahmed said the event had given people who had not experienced the library's new home an opportunity to see the types of activities that take place at Netherton Library.

The celebrations came after it was revealed the number of children using libraries in the borough has soared.

The council said the number of loans taken out by youngsters increased by four per cent or 17,000. The rise saw children's borrowing figures go up to 440,389.

Voluntary group will run health watchdog

AN independent watchdog created to get public opinion on health and social care issues in Dudley will be run by Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (DCVS).

Dudley Council has appointed DCVS to operate Healthwatch Dudley following a tender process.

Healthwatch Dudley will be an independent organisation able to recruit volunteers and employ its own staff.

It will offer information services to patients and people who use social care services.

It will also help to support patient and public involvement in the review and development of services.

A representative of Dudley Healthwatch will sit on the Dudley health and wellbeing board.

The Healthwatch England and Local Healthwatch organisations will also be able to make recommendations to the Care Quality Commission to carry out investigations if they feel it appropriate.

Dance will raise funds

HOSPICE fundraisers will be getting their dancing shoes on for an event next month.

The get-together, which is run by Halesowen Fundraising Group for Mary Stevens Hospice, will feature sequence dancing.

The dance will be held on March 9 from 7.30pm at Lutley Community Centre on Brookwillow Road in Halesowen.

Tickets for the evening are £4 to buy them or for more information contact 0121 550 8631.

Sleeping in a cold room can make you ill... we can help

Winter warmth

Each winter up to 200 people in Dudley Borough die as a result of being too cold in their home. Sleeping in a cold room isn't just uncomfortable it can put pressure on your breathing, heart and circulation leading to heart attacks and strokes.

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Winter warmth provides free practical support and advice to keep you and your home warm. Things like help with paying fuel bills, energy efficiency grants, emergency heaters, even support for older people struggling to get out.

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Tam + 2 members



Anna + Anne

VIP ATTENTION: Staff at Gymphobics act as mentors and counsellors for everyone and build friendships with them.

SWEEPING THE NATION: Gymphobics is offering a new figure improvement programme, Resisted Tension, which is a 30-minute workout designed to turn the body into a fat-burning machine, with them.

Choose the right gym for you

WHEN choosing a gym, think through why you are joining in the first place.

What is it that you really want? Is it a gym with great facilities but little or no TLC from the staff? Or is it results that you are looking for?

Gymphobics is all about results. A lot of conventional gyms are about expensive facilities and add-ons such as swimming pools, saunas and cafés, which come at a price - with many charging more than twice what you will pay at Gymphobics.

Its centres are for people who are not really gym addicts. They are for people who want specific results in the shortest possible time and don't want to spend hours at a gym to achieve them.

Gymphobics is for those who don't

want to train like an athlete and who want help from staff who know exactly what they are doing and are dedicated to working with their members on every visit.

A common complaint about conventional gyms is that members are merely numbers on a balance sheet and are left to get on with things without help.

At Gymphobics, things are done differently. The staff see programme planning as their job and work closely with members on every visit they make.

They act as mentors and counsellors for everyone and build friendships with them.

If it is real results you want, then Gymphobics is the place

for you.

It has members of all ages, with children from 11 years old who come along with their relatives to women in their eighties - and lots of ages in between.

Each member's age is taken into account when their personal programme is designed, which is key in achieving great results.

Gymphobics is the only place offering Resisted Tension - the figure improvement programme that is sweeping the nation.

It is the only workout to have gained a Trade Mark to prove its uniqueness - just one more reason to make Gymphobics your gym of choice.

The Staff



Vibr8 machine



The outside

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Gymphobics introduces a new, fast and exciting way to lose weight

Women's gym Gymphobics, in Halesowen, is offering a new figure improvement programme that is currently sweeping the nation.

Resisted Tension is a 30-minute workout designed to turn the body into a fat-burning machine by "switching on" dormant muscle fibres.

The number of fibres that are "switched on" determines how many calories we burn even while we are sleeping and Resisted Tension is one of the most efficient method of switching on muscle fibres ever devised.

After just a few sessions of Resisted Tension, a beginner sees her body taking shape as muscles become toned and start to burn off unwanted fat. Most ladies lose a dress size in the first few weeks.

Resisted Tension is designed to squeeze muscles isometrically while exercising on "air" machines, making it one of the easiest workouts. A 30-minute session leaves you feeling invigorated rather than exhausted.

Compare this with conventional gyms, where people pound out the miles on treadmills or sweat it out on bikes or rowing machines in an attempt to lose weight.

Running flat-out for an hour will burn less than 800

calories, or less than 4oz.

Much the same applies to all forms of cardiovascular or aerobic activity. And cardio often doesn't tighten and tone the body either.

It is no surprise that women often achieve more weight and inch loss with a few weeks of Resisted Tension than a lifetime of cardiovascular activity.

Unlike conventional gyms, Gymphobics, in High Street, Halesowen, is a one-stop shop. It combines all the benefits of a gym with those offered by a slimming club.

For those who want to slim down, their weight is monitored every week and specially



trained staff work with them to come to terms with their diet and to speed up their metabolism.

It is no wonder some Gymphobics members achieve results that far exceed those gained in a conventional gym environment.

Resisted Tension is far more than a weight-loss system - it also targets those areas of the body that need attention.

Inch loss is quickly achieved as muscles are strengthened. The tummy is flattened and posture is improved.

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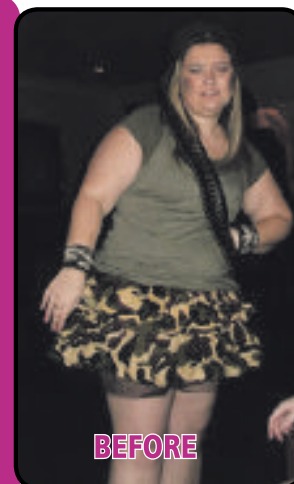
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SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES: Unlike conventional gyms, Gymophobics, in High Street, Halesowen, is a one-stop shop. It combines all the benefits of a gym with those offered by a slimming club.



'FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION': Above, Claire Simpson, before she joined Gymophobics. Left, Claire after her weight-loss.



GREAT RESULTS: Above, Sarah Jayne before she joined Gymophobics. Left, Sarah Jayne after her weight-loss. Sarah has lost over four dress sizes and more than 5st in weight.



SHAPE UP FOR SUMMER: Right, Sharon before she joined Gymophobics. Left, Sharon after her weight-loss.

Results guarantee - results that show or get your money back*

YES, it's true. Achieve results that show in just ten weeks or Gymophobics will refund every penny.

Failure is not an option with the Resisted Tension workout. Inch loss, weight loss and figure improvement to make your friends sit up and take notice is what Gymophobics is all about. Call the nearest branch in High Street, Halesowen, to arrange a free guest visit.

Staff will show you around and introduce you to some of the hundreds of women who are achieving amazing results. Experience a free figure analysis to see what weight and surplus inches you may want to lose and staff will follow that by explaining the Resisted Tension programme

and what you can expect to achieve.

Based on your height and bone structure, they will tell you exactly how your new figure is going to look.

A free guest visit is a no-cost, no-obligation opportunity to learn more about the unique Resisted Tension programme that can change your shape and change your life.

More than 100,000 women throughout the UK have already discovered Gymophobics - now it's your turn.

Call 0121-448-1743 or visit www.gymophobics.co.uk/ Halesowen for more information.

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COMPETITION



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SAVING money by growing your own food has never been a hotter topic. With soaring food prices and family budgets stretched, it's the perfect time to think about digging for the dinner plate.

That's why the Chronicles have teamed up with organisers of the award-winning national event, The Edible Garden Show, to offer 10 lucky readers the chance to each win a pair of tickets to this must-visit event.

Scheduled for the beginning of the growing season, The Edible Garden Show returns to Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, from 15-17 March harvesting a huge crop of exciting exhibitors and brings inspirational celebrity chefs



vegetables. BBC Gardeners' World presenter Alys Fowler will give mouth-watering talks on creating delicious salads from herbs and flowers and Gardeners' Question Time panellist Bob Flowerdew will talk 'a load of old rot about compost'.

The Show's resident grow-your-own guru Paul Peacock adds to the entertaining mix, sharing his passion for growing and eating home-grown crops.

The show has something for all the family from bees, chickens, goats and pigs to plants, seeds, compost, fruit presses, raised beds, tools and a range of innovative gadgets to making growing your own easier.

Show-goers will get a buzz with demonstrations from expert beekeepers and the British Pig Association is set to showcase native breeds of pigs and entertain families with daily ring demonstrations.

Meanwhile enthusiastic poultry vet Victoria Roberts will be on hand to share her hen-rearing tips.

● To enter our competition, simply answer the following question:

Which popular gardening celebrity will share his passion for growing exotic food?

Is it:

- A) James Wong
- B) Alan Titchmarsh
- C) Joe Swift

Usual Chronicle competition rules apply. All entrants must provide a postal address and/or email address



Expert - Bob Flowerdew

and gardeners together under one roof in a one-stop shop for anyone wanting a slice of the "Good Life".

Popular chef Rachel Green will get taste buds tingling with her flamboyant cookery demonstrations and TV botanist James Wong will share his passion for growing exotic fruit and



Favourite - James Wong

and daytime telephone number. Competition closes on March 7. Send your answer via postcard or email only to:

The Edible Garden competition
Chronicle editorial
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1ES
or email dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

If you don't win, there is also a special discount ticket rate for Chronicle readers who can buy a pair of adult tickets for just £20 - saving a tenner!

Simply call the ticket hotline on 0844 338 8001 or visit www.theediblegarden-show.co.uk and quote reference CHRO13 to get this two tickets for £20 deal. Availability is limited so book now. Discount is valid on adult tickets only, which would normally cost £15 on the day. See website www.theediblegarden-show.co.uk for full terms.

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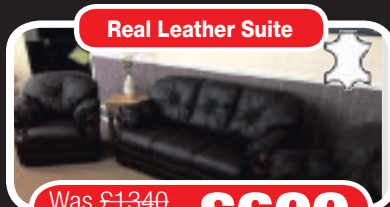


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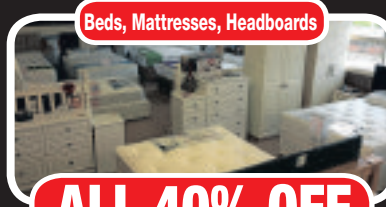
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Making our vision a reality

Our vision couldn't be much more ambitious - a world where people no longer die prematurely from heart disease.

When you have a vision that big in mind, it helps to set some milestones along the way. That's why we've set a number of objectives to guide our day-to-day work.

But we can't do any of it alone. We are working alongside government, other health charities, healthcare professionals and thousands of dedicated supporters to beat heart disease. Everybody has a part to play.

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- reduce heart-related deaths in all UK local authority areas to the current level in South East England or below

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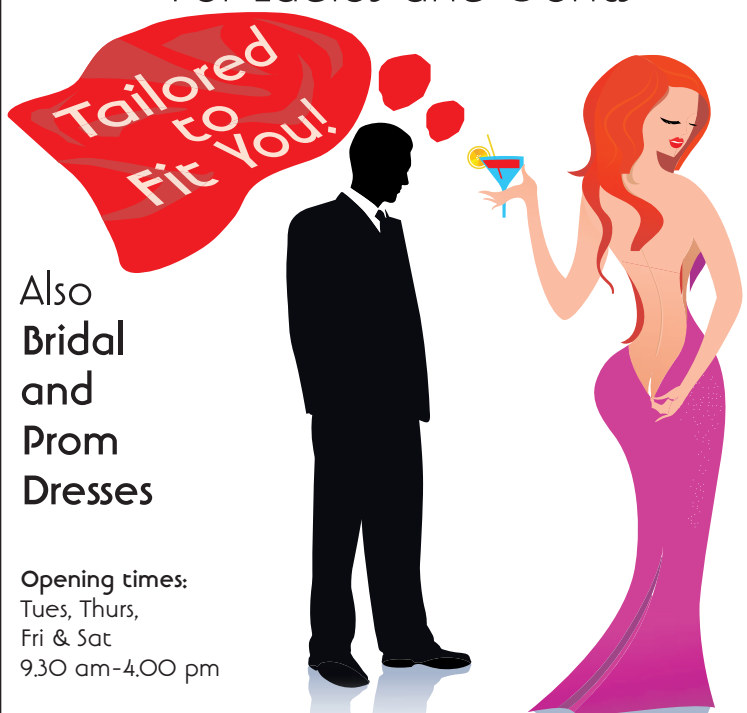
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What's On! Halesowen

Classic Bronte story at arts centre

A PRODUCTION of Jane Eyre, the classic Charlotte Bronte novel, will be performed by Dudley Little Theatre.

The shows will be performed between Wednesday March 6 and Saturday March 9.

The story is about the complicated relationship between plain but passionate girl Jane as her love for the embittered and lonely Mr Rochester develops.

The performances will be at the Netherton Arts Centre at 7.30pm and tickets are £7 for adults and £6 with concessions.

Rock 'n' roll Fury is remembered

ROCK 'n' Roll fans can enjoy a little nostalgia in Halfway to Paradise: The Billy Fury Story.

Billy has been described as Britain's Elvis and 30 years after his death, his original Fury's Tornados remember him by replaying live on stage his 29 hit records.

The show, at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday March 2, includes on screen footage of Billy and his band.

Tickets are £17.50 and the performance begins at 7.30pm.

Youtube comic

YOUTUBE and TV comedian Alun Cochrane is bringing his show to Stourbridge Town Hall on March 4 at 8pm. Tickets for the Moments of Alun performance are £12.

Macabre medieval mystery for meddling monk to solve

WOLVERHAMPTON Grand Theatre hosts a world premiere when its stages the first performances of a new play featuring popular 12th century detective Brother Cadfael.

The Virgin In The Ice marks the centenary of the birth of Cadfael author Ellis Peters, who died in 1995. Director Michael Lunney adapts for theatre one of her most popular mystery novels featuring the medieval monk, who is also an amateur sleuth and expert botanist.

Playing the Shropshire Benedictine Brother is Gareth Thomas, who starred in cult sci-fi TV favourite Blake's 7 in the 1970s and 80s.

In The Virgin In The Ice, Cadfael investigates when a pair of orphans and a young nun go missing during a bleak winter as a civil war rages.

Gareth Thomas leads a cast that also includes former London's Burning actors Richard Walsh and Rupert Baker, and James Palmer from River City. The play is staged from Wednesday to Saturday, March 6 to 9 at the Lichfield Street theatre.



Gareth Thomas as Cadfael

Monty

Highlights this week include revealing comedy-drama about life on the dole The Full Monty continuing at Birmingham Hippodrome to Saturday. Cole Porter musical High Society ends its Grand run on Saturday.

Strictly's Anton Du Beke and Erin Boag dance at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Sunday.

The exciting new play based upon Philip Pullman's I Was A Rat! is at Birmingham Old Rep to Saturday.



They believe in a thing called love - The Darkness are ready to rock Wolverhampton

Civic are you ready to rock?

THE DARKNESS began as a mock rock band but rapidly became the real thing, albeit with tongue in cheek, when I Believe In A Thing Called Love became a worldwide hit.

Fronted by Justin Hawkins, the melodic glam metal outfit from Suffolk have continued to win fans and prominent among them is Lady Gaga, who The Darkness supported on tour.

Dogs

Their third album Hot Cakes is full of rock anthems and Wolverhampton better be ready to rock when The Darkness hit the stage at the Civic Hall on Wednesday, March 6.

Also worth catching are veteran rockers Dogs D'Amour, fronted by Wolverhampton's Tyla, at the city's Slade Rooms on Sunday.

Arias in area as city hosts operas

NEXT week is good for opera fans with classics coming to Birmingham.

Welsh National Opera make their first second city visit of the year to take up residence at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday, March 5 to 9.

They perform a new version of Lulu (sung in German) on Tuesday, The Cunning Little Vixen (in English) on Thursday, and Madam Butterfly (in Italian) on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Moldovan National Opera perform Bizet's passionate Carmen at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Saturday, March 2.

Comedians bring laughs to venues

HIP comedian Russell Kane brings his Posturing Delivery stand-up tour to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre tomorrow night (Friday) and has sold out his Stafford Gatehouse gig on the following night, Saturday.

Canadian comic Tom Stadel, a former Bilston resident, is at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday.

Winter ale event

THE winter Black Country Beer Festival is on March 1 and 2. It runs from 6pm to 11pm on the Friday and from midday until 11pm on the Saturday at Lye Cricket Club on Stourbridge Road. Entry is £2.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 2.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Alexander Armstrong

Pointless Celebrities: Comic Relief Special BBC1, 6.10pm
Over the past couple of years, it's seemed like comedy partners Ben Miller and Alexander Armstrong were going their separate ways. Miller has been solving murders in the Caribbean in the BBC's hit *Death in Paradise*, while Armstrong has been busy asking people to name elements on the periodic table and grand slam tennis winners on this quiz show. But now, they are about to be reunited once again in a special Comic Relief edition of *Pointless* – well, sort of. Miller is actually competing on the quiz.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 Film: The Shaggy Dog. (2006) 2.30 Live Athletics. 4.25 Final Score. 5.20 Animal Antics. 5.50 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 6.10 Pointless Celebrities: Comic Relief Special. Fast Show duo Paul Whitehouse and Charlie Higson. Death in Paradise actors Danny John-Jules and Ben Miller, and comedians Ed Byrne and Shappi Khorsandi compete.
7.00 Let's Dance for Comic Relief. Vanessa Feltz, Keith Duffy, Lee Nelson, ventriloquist Nina Conti and newreaders Ore Oduba and Sonali Shah compete, with music by Nicole Scherzinger and Justin Bieber.
8.25 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws.
9.15 Casualty. Big Mac thinks he may have finally found his dream woman and lets her believe he is a doctor, while Ash clashes with Zoe by carrying out a risky procedure without her knowledge.
10.05 BBC News: Weather. 10.25 Match of the Day. Including Manchester United v Norwich City. National Lottery Update.
11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.
1.10 Weatherview. 1.15 BBC News.

BBC2

**6.00 This Is BBC Two. 7.30 Great British Menu. (R) 8.00 Great British Menu. (R) 8.30 Great British Menu. (R) 9.00 Great British Menu. (R) 9.30 Great British Menu. (R) 10.00 A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) 11.00 Meet the Ancestors. (R) 11.30 Map Man. (R) 12.00 Indian Food Made Easy. (R) 12.30 Mastermind. (R) 1.00 University Challenge. (R) 1.30 Talking Pictures. 2.15 Film: Doctor in the House. (1954) 3.40 Coast. 4.25 Live Athletics.
6.00 Flop III Trade Secrets.
7.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson and Richard Hammond design a vehicle for elderly people. James May gets acquainted with the latest Range Rover and James McAvoy drives the Reasonably Priced Car. (R)
8.00 Dad's Army. Walmington-on-Sea's power and communications services are cut off, but Captain Mainwaring rises to the occasion by declaring martial law. (R)
8.30 Queen of Tigers: Natural World Special. Wildlife cameraman Colin Stafford-Johnson returns to India to follow the progress of tiger Machli and chart the extraordinary milestones in her life. (R)
9.30 Howard Goodall's Story of Music. The composer examines the history of the past 100 years in music, known as the popular age – a period when classical music was considered to be in decline. Last in the series.
10.30 Film: The First Grader. (2010) Premiere. Fact-based drama, starring Oliver Litondo and Naomie Harris.
12.05 Film: The Private Lives of Pippa Lee. (2009) 1.40 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Handy Manny. 6.10 Handy Manny. 6.25 The Hive. (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Dino Dan. (R) 7.10 Canimals. (R) 7.20 Canimals. (R) 7.25 Bookaboo. 7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 8.05 Ultimate Spider-Man. 8.30 Share a Story: Behind the Scenes. (R) 9.00 Jessie. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 10.25 My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. (R) 11.25 Dinner Date. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 Film: Columbo: Negative Reaction. (1974) 2.35 The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) 3.35 Film: Dragonheart. (1996) 5.30 Regional Programme: Weather. 5.45 ITV News: Weather.
6.00 You've Been Framed and Famous! Harry Hill showcases some of the best celebrity lookalike clips sent in by viewers. (R)
7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The Georgie duo perform an undercover prank on Jeremy Kyle.
8.15 The Cube. New series. A firefighter and a competitive swimmer try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000.
9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to actor and comedian Jack Whitehall (Fresh Meat) and American pop star Bruno Mars, who also performs live.
10.15 ITV News: Weather. 10.30 Film: Body of Lies. (2008) Premiere. A CIA agent pursuing a terrorist is caught between allegiance to his superior and the local intelligence chief. Thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio.
12.50 Jackpot247. 3.00 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Will & Grace. (R) 7.25 FIM Superbike World Championship. 7.55 The Morning Line. 8.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.25 Frasier. (R) 10.20 Frasier. (R) 10.50 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.20 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.45 The Simpsons. (R) 12.20 The Simpsons. (R) 12.50 Undercover Boss USA. (R) 1.45 Channel 4 Racing. 4.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.35 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.40 Channel 4 News. 7.00 4thought. tv. Suggested replacements for the Pope.
7.05 Edward VIII: The Plot to Topple a King. An archbishop's bid to remove the monarch. (R)
8.00 Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home. The Grand Designs presenter continues his project by searching for items to transform the shell of his wooden cabin into a habitable home, including a floor, a window and a stove. (R)
9.00 Film: Transporter 3. (2008) Underworld courier Frank Martin transports the kidnapped daughter of a crooked government minister across Europe. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham.
11.05 Film: Jumper. (2008) Fantasy thriller, starring Hayden Christensen.
12.45 Tim Minchin: Ready for This? (R) 2.15 Southland. 2.55 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.00 Countdown. (R) 5.45 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers Samurai. (R) 10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.05 Looney Tunes. (R) 11.15 Highland Emergency. (R) 11.45 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) 12.45 Beat the Ancestors. (R) 1.45 Film: Mosquito Squadron. (1968) 3.30 Film: Vera Cruz. (1954) 5.20 Film: Chisum. (1970).
7.25 5 News Weekend. 7.30 CSI: NY. The team is called in to investigate the murder of a girl dressed as a virtual world character – and a search of her computer reveals she had been conducting an online relationship. (R)
8.15 NCIS. Inquires into the death of a Marine and the team squarely in the middle of an inner-city gang war, forcing Gibbs to confront a secret from his past. (R)
9.10 NCIS. One of Tony's old murder investigations is reopened, prompting him to switch roles with Gibbs and lead the team in an inquiry that links the case to an embezzlement scheme. (R)
10.05 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Benson and Stabler are faced with a dilemma when a child abuse suspect offers to reveal the identity of a controversial civil rights group's leader in exchange for an amnesty.
11.05 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. A war veteran is accused of killing an escort's boyfriend.
12.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 HouseBusters. (R) 4.25 Divine Designs. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.05 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.15 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.40 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Merlin. 7.45 Doctor Who. 8.30 Film: Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time. (2010) 10.20 World's Craziest Fools. 10.50 Family Guy. 11.35 American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 Britain's Natural World. 8.00 Baroque! From St Peter's to St Paul's. 9.00 Spiral 4: State of Terror. 10.50 Dusty Springfield at the BBC. 11.50 The Beatles' Please Please Me – Remaking a Classic
ITV2
4.15 You've Been Framed! 5.45 Film: Babe. (1995) 7.45 Film: Ocean's Eleven. (2001) 10.00 Celebrity Juice. 10.50 Film: Shaun of the Dead. (2004)
ITV3
2.35 A Touch of Frost. 4.50 Agatha Christie's Marple. 6.55 Rosemary & Thyme. 9.00 Midsomer Murders. 11.05 Film: The Portrait of a Lady. (1996)
ITV4
3.00 Ronnie O'Sullivan: Sports Life Stories. 4.00 Cheers. 4.30 World of Sport: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. 4.50 Film: Without a Clue. (1988) 7.00 TT Legends. 7.30 GT Academy. 8.00 River Monsters: Deadliest Encounters. 9.00 Film: Cliffhanger. (1993) 11.15 Film: Game of Death. (2010)
E4
3.35 Rules of Engagement. 6.00 The Big Bang Theory. 7.00 Happy Endings. 8.00 How I Met Your Mother. 8.30 2 Broke Girls. 9.00 Film: Epic Movie. (2007) 10.45 The Big Bang Theory. 11.45 The Cleveland Show
Film
3.00 Kidnapped. (1971) 5.05 Honey, I Shrunk the Kids. (1989) 6.55 Mad Money. (2008) 9.00 Forrest Gump. (1994) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks. 11.40 Predator 2. (1990)

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- Getting into and out of bed
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- Completing tasks outside of the house - shopping etc.
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What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

SUNDAY'S TV 3.03.13

CHOICE



Jim Caviezel

Person of Interest Channel 5, 9pm
The Machine throws out the social security number of young entrepreneur Adam Sanders, who works for a Wall Street trading company. Reese goes undercover posing as a new investor in the firm, while Finch raids Adam's apartment and discovers multiple shoeboxes stuffed with \$200 bills. Upon further investigation, the pair ascertain that the trader possesses classified information about his company that would put its entire future in jeopardy - and he is planning to expose it. Drama, starring Jim Caviezel and Michael Emerson.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.25 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.20 Countryfile.** (R) **1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Call the Midwife. (R) 3.00 Walk on the Wild Side. 3.30 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Songs of Praise. 5.05 Penguins - Spy in the Huddle. (R)**
6.05 Deadly 60 on a Mission. Steve Backshall searches for the world's deadliest animals.
6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
7.00 Countryfile. The dialect of Northumberland, the Victorian man who powered his house with water and the possible impact of the proposed new high-speed rail link on the countryside. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Call the Midwife. Cynthia tends a diabetic man who turns out to be a terrible bully to his wife. Jenny looks after a black mother-to-be being subjected to racial prejudice, and Chummy returns.
9.00 Mayday. New series. Drama about the search for a missing teenage girl.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day 2. Action from Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal.
11.15 Room 101 - Extra Storage. With Craig Revel Horwood, Sheila Hancock and Jon Richardson. Last in the series.
11.55 The Sky at Night. The results of Patrick Moore's last Winter Marathon.
12.15 The Apprentice USA. 1.40 Weatherview. 1.45 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 7.10 Film: Hot Enough for June. (1964) 8.45 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) 9.15 A to Z of TV Gardening. 10.00 Live Athletics. 11.40 EastEnders. (R) 1.30 MasterChef: The Professionals Uncovered. (R) 2.30 Flog It! (R) 3.15 Live Athletics.
6.00 Food & Drink. (R) Flying Past. (R)
6.30 The Sea King: Britain's Shipwreck. (R)
7.30 Open All Hours. Miserly shopkeeper Arkwright organises a sales drive in a bid to boost profits, with Granville demonstrating the products. (R)
8.00 Top Gear. Part one of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May visit Africa on a mission to find the definitive source of the Nile using grit, ingenuity and ageing estate cars.
9.00 The Truth About Meteors: A Horizon Special. Professor Iain Stewart explores what meteorites and asteroids are, where they come from, the dangers they pose and the role they have played in Earth's history.
10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Health. New series. Highlights of the topical comedy quiz show. Health is the subject of the first episode, including another chance to hear about Dara O'Brian's curious exercise regime.
10.30 Dancing on the Edge. Stanley plans to help Louis leave the country. Last in the series. (R)
12.05 Film: The Science of Sleep. (2006) 1.45 Sign Zone: Holby City. (R) 2.45 Being Eileen. (R) 3.15 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Handy Manny. 6.10 Handy Manny. 6.25 The Hive. (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Dino Dan. (R) 7.10 Animals. (R) 7.20 Animals. (R) 7.25 Bookaboo. 7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 8.05 Rated A for Awesome. 8.15 Rated A for Awesome. 8.30 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 8.45 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 9.00 The Aquabats Super Show. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.25 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.30 Film: Carry On Matron. (1972) 2.15 Doc Martin. (R) 3.15 Agatha Christie's Marple. (R) 5.15 You've Been Framed! (R) 5.45 Regional Programme: Weather.
6.00 ITV News; Weather. 6.15 Dancing on Ice. 7.45 All Star Family Fortunes. With Michael Owen and Penny Lancaster. Last in the series.
8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. The two lowest-scoring couples compete. Last in the series.
9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry is disturbed by news of a death, Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton gives a lecture in the store and Victor steals himself to tell Lady Mae what he thinks of her.
10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.15 Her Majesty's Prison - Aylesbury. Conclusion. Life at the young offenders' institution in Buckinghamshire. (R)
11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 17th round of fixtures.
12.15 The Store. 2.15 Movie. (R) 3.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)**

CHANNEL 4

**6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Mark Webber Tasmania Challenge. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.05 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.05 The Simpsons. (R) 1.35 The Simpsons. (R) 2.05 Film: The Princess Diaries. (2001) 4.25 Time Team. 5.25 Deal or No Deal.
6.25 Channel 4 News. 6.55 Although...tv. Suggested replacements for the Pope.
7.00 Ottolenghi's Mediterranean Feast. Chef Yotam Ottolenghi's culinary journey takes him to Istanbul, Turkey, where he tastes fish from the waters of the Bosphorus and samples the street food.
8.00 Meteor Strike: Fireball from Space. Documentary about the meteorite that crashed into Russia's Ural mountains in February, including previously unseen footage and expert insight from astrophysicists.
9.00 Film: The Tourist. (2010) Premiere. A woman tries to make the police think a tourist is her criminal lover with his appearance surgically changed. Thriller, with Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie.
11.05 Film: The Quick and the Dead. (1995) A female gunslinger turns up at a frontier town for a shooting contest and to settle an old score. Western, with Sharon Stone.
1.05 Jack Whitehall: My Funniest Year. (R) 3.00 4Funniest: Uncle. (R) 3.25 Sit Elsewhere. (R) 4.15 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.10 Countdown. (R) 5.55 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.15 Peppa Pig and the Flowerpots. (R) 6.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 6.30 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.45 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 6.50 Olive the Ostrich. (R) 6.55 Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25 Animal Antics. (R) 7.30 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.40 City of Friends. (R) 7.50 Little Princess. (R) 8.05 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.20 Miao Miao. (R) 8.25 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.40 Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Toby's Travelling Circus. 9.30 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.45 Jelly Jam. (R) 10.00 Power Rangers Samurai. (R) 10.25 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.00 Once Upon a Time. (R) 12.00 Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment. (1985) 1.40 Film: See No Evil, Hear No Evil. (1989) 3.30 Film: Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. (1988) 5.45 Beat the Ancestors.
6.40 5 News Weekend. 6.45 Film: Rocky. (1976) Oscar-winning boxing drama, starring Sylvester Stallone.
9.00 Person of Interest. Reese protects a young entrepreneur.
10.00 Film: Crank: High Voltage. Premiere. Thriller, starring Jason Statham. (2009)
11.50 Film: Renegade Justice. (2007) Action thriller, starring Steven Seagal.
1.45 SuperCasino. 4.00 HouseBusters. (R) 4.25 Divine Designs. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.05 Hand's Helpline. (R) 5.15 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.40 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Let's Dance for Comic Relief
8.15 Film: The Sorcerer's Apprentice (2010) 10.00 Being Human
11.00 People Like Us
BBC Four
7.00 The Story of British Pathe
8.00 Mark Lawson Talks to Mark Knopfler
9.00 Boxing at the Movies: Kings of the Ring
10.50 Film: Cinderella Man (2005)
ITV2
2.20 Film: Dennis (1993) 4.10 Film: Beethoven (1991)
6.00 You've Been Framed!
7.35 Film: Ocean's Thirteen (2007) 10.00 The Only Way Is Essex
10.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
ITV3
3.55 Film: The Likely Lads (1976) 5.45 Murder, She Wrote
6.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot
9.00 Film: Dead Calm (1989) Suspense thriller, with Nicole Kidman and Sam Neill.
11.00 Wycliffe
ITV4
3.30 TT Legends
4.00 UEFA Champions League Weekly
4.30 Film: Blues Brothers
2000 (1998) 7.00 The Sweeney
8.00 Premiership Rugby Union
9.00 Film: Lethal Weapon 2 (1989)
11.20 Film: Smokey and the Bandit II (1980)
E4
4.35 Revenge
5.30 The Big Bang Theory
6.30 New Girl
7.30 How I Met Your Mother
8.00 Film: Stardust (2007)
10.30 Rude Tube
11.35 The Big Bang Theory: Access All Areas
Film4
3.10 Akeelah and the Bee (2006)
5.20 Inspector Gadget (1999)
6.55 X-Men: The Last Stand (2006)
9.00 This Is England (2006)
Shane Meadows' drama set in the 1980s, starring Thomas Turgoose. 11.05 Nine to Five (1980)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Rocky, Channel 5, 11pm

Philadelphia brawler Rocky Balboa gets a shot at the world heavyweight title when current champion Apollo Creed decides to give an unknown boxer a chance in celebration of America's bicentennial. Oscar-winning drama, starring Sylvester Stallone. (1976)

TUESDAY

The Killing Fields, BBC1, 12.20am

Oscar-winning fact-based drama following an American reporter's harrowing experiences in 1970s Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge's fight for control of the country. He develops a close friendship with his Cambodian guide, whom he is forced to leave behind to possibly become a victim of the murderous new regime. Starring Sam Waterston. (1984)

WEDNESDAY

Management, BBC1, 11.45pm

A travelling art saleswoman and a motel employee begin an unconventional courtship when she stays at the establishment during a business trip. However, when it is time for her to return home, he has trouble letting go of his new-found romance and impulsively decides to follow her cross-country. Comedy, starring Jennifer Aniston and Steve Zahn. (2008)



Rocky, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

THURSDAY

Cries in the Dark, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A cop investigates the disappearance of her pregnant sister, whose body is eventually discovered, having given birth. She discovers the killer is her brother-in-law's deranged lover, and faces a desperate race to find out where she is hiding the newborn child. Thriller, starring Eva La Rue, Adam Harrington, Gina Chierelli and Adrian Holmes. (2006)

FRIDAY

Hard Target, ITV, 10.35pm

A woman searching for her missing father hires an out-of-work merchant sailor to guide her through the streets of New Orleans, where his martial arts skills are greatly tested in a series of encounters with sadistic hunters of human prey. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Yancy Butler. (1993)

I've Loved You So Long, BBC2, 11.50pm

A doctor released from prison goes to live with her younger sister, who was a teenager when she was sentenced but now has a family of her own. The ex-convict struggles to adapt to life in the outside world, while her brother-in-law is not happy with the new addition to his household. Drama, starring Kristin Scott Thomas. In French and English. (2008)

Pick of the Week

New role is far from child's play for Tennant

A child is dead. A community is in shock. A stranger arrives. Keen to find out what happened.

In those three short, sharp sentences, we have the basic plot of Broadchurch, a new, eight-part drama from Chris Chibnall.

"Broadchurch is a hybrid: a cocktail of stories," explains Chibnall. "A drama about a community racked by grief and suspicion. A whodunit packed with suspects. A character-driven, emotional thriller, thick with twists and turns."

The writer's previous credits include Torchwood and Doctor Who – in fact, Broadchurch features several actors who have featured in the latter, such as David Tennant, Olivia Colman and Arthur Darvill. But the drama itself couldn't be further removed from the Whoniverse if it tried.

Instead, it focuses on the effect young Danny Latimer's death has on the residents of the small Dorset town in which he lived, including his devastated parents, sister and grandmother, as well as the local vicar, the family's friends and a

mysterious character living in the local caravan park.

Policewoman Ellie Miller is close to the case thanks to her son's friendship with Danny, and she finds it difficult to deal with the subsequent investigation into his death, which is led by DI Alec Hardy, a newcomer to the area whose methods may stir matters up.

"The script has great humanity and I think Chris shows immense understanding of the human condition in all the different characters and the way it impacts on the community," says Tennant. "I think it will have emotional empathy, which is what pulls the audience in, whatever it is – whether it's a murder mystery or something set in the future on Mars – it's always that recognition of the human experience. That's what makes us enjoy watching other people's stories."

Having worked with Chibnall before on Doctor Who, Tennant knew the script for Broadchurch would be good, but wasn't prepared for just HOW good it would be.

"I initially had two scripts to look at with the knowledge that

subsequent scripts would be appearing throughout the process and we wouldn't get final scripts until months into the shoot – which is a gamble," claims Tennant. "But the fact I read it from cover to cover in one pass and was left at the end of the first episode desperately wanting to know what happens next was telling."

Jodie Whittaker, Andrew Buchan, Carolyn Pickles and Vicky McClure are among the outstanding supporting cast – and if their presence in this production is anything to go by, it's going to be very special indeed.

Tennant is certainly very happy with the way the drama has turned out: "What's been great is working with the varied and talented cast. It's great to be part of a genuine ensemble."

"It's also great to be part of something where all the characters have equally powerful stories to tell. There's the whodunit aspect but there are other stories going on at the same time and such wonderful people portraying those parts and seeing those characters and worlds develop."



David Tennant stars in the crime drama Broadchurch, Monday, ITV, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

SuperScrimps

Channel 4, 8.30pm

It's not news that we're all pulling in the purse strings at the moment. So thank goodness Mrs Moneybags is back. She will be pitching up her cash clinic in a city centre beauty salon, giving us the lowdown on the money matters that concern us. Meanwhile, Harry Wallop investigates bargain products compared to their more expensive counterparts, while the scrappers return with a series of tips. And Siobhan Witter, who has a major problem with overspending on clothes, is challenged to find three new looks for £50.

The Flying Scotsman: A Rail Romance BBC2, 9pm

In 1923, LNER Class A3 Pacific steam locomotive No 4472 was completed in Doncaster for the London and North East Railway. By 1963, The Flying Scotsman was retired from service after covering more than two million miles, but has also enjoyed tours of the United States and Australia. Those nice folks at the National Railway Museum in York have been keeping a close eye on its restoration since it was bought in 2004, with the aid of public donations. Here, Barbara Flynn lends her dulcet tones to this film exploring the nation's love affair with one of Britain's steamiest stars.

TUESDAY

Live UEFA Champions League ITV, 7.30pm

Manchester United face Real Madrid in this last-16 second-leg match at Old Trafford, and both teams

will consider this an excellent opportunity to progress to the quarter-finals. The tie is delicately poised at 1-1 following the first leg at the Bernabeu, which saw United take the lead through Danny Welbeck, before former Red Devil Cristiano Ronaldo equalised for his current employers. United goalkeeper David de Gea received many plaudits for his performance on the night after making a string of saves that helped to keep Madrid at bay. The home side go into tonight's fixture as slight favourites seeing as they managed to score a crucial away goal in the Spanish capital.

The Matt Lucas Awards

BBC1, 10.35pm

Viewers could be forgiven for thinking they're watching Room 101 as the format for this second series is so similar to Frank Skinner's show: three guests; amiable host; funny film clips; assorted categories. For the first of the new run, Ardal O'Hanlon, Robert Webb and Adil Ray are on the sofa while Matt's mum is in the kitchen. First up is the Least Comprehensible UK Accent. Ardal opts for Northern Irish, Robert goes for Lincolnshire, and Adil decides Sir Alex Ferguson should be nominated. That gives Matt an excuse to launch into a series of hit-and-miss impressions, but one of the best bits of the show – the Hidden Talent Award – sees Adil guessing cars just from the sound of the engine. Get that man on Top Gear.



The Matt Lucas Awards, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.35pm

WEDNESDAY

Food Glorious Food

ITV, 8pm

Carol Vorderman has been known to make headlines and even win awards for her svelte figure. However, she recently admitted that this programme has been quite the weakness after having given in to copious amounts of delicious food when judging. Luckily for us, we can enjoy it from the comfort of our armchairs without worrying about our calorie intake. That is until the winning recipe hits the shelves of Marks and Spencer. This week, Carol and the team are headed to the southwest of England, sampling the delights on offer in Devon.

THURSDAY Waterloo Road BBC1, 8pm

They may be too young to get married, but Imogen (Kirstie Steele) and Connor (Shane O'Meara) make a lovely couple. The registry office has called and there's been a cancellation, so they decided to tie the knot. Talking of loved-up couples, Michael (Alec Newman) and Christine (Laureie Brett)

look like besotted teenagers themselves, but as ever at Waterloo Road, there's no end of personal and professional problems ready to rain on everyone's parade. Scout (Katie McGlynn) has both her exams and thieving, sick housemate mum Tina (Lisa Riley) to think about.

FRIDAY Coronation Street ITV, 7.30pm

Now his fling with Sunita has gone sour, and he's lost his job, Karl wants to get back with Stella. As she's made it clear she doesn't want him back (kidnapping her in his cab being one of the many reasons), Karl is now gunning for her boyfriend, Jason. Grimshaw may be in the running for a council building job, but when his van is stolen, it looks like it'll scupper his chances. Could Karl be to blame for the theft, or is another dodgy local to blame? Meanwhile, Jason's mum is worried that Paul will leave her for someone else.

Wild Arabia BBC2, 9pm

No documentary about the changing face of the Arabian Peninsula is complete unless it has taken oil into consideration, and that's the focus of this final edition of the series. We see how the riches afforded the region by its abundance of 'black gold' has affected all manner of changes, from camel racing to wild animals' habitats. Although Arabia's untamed critters are now living side-by-side with a modern developed world, this is not always a bad thing – as new technology is being used to protect them and the environment.

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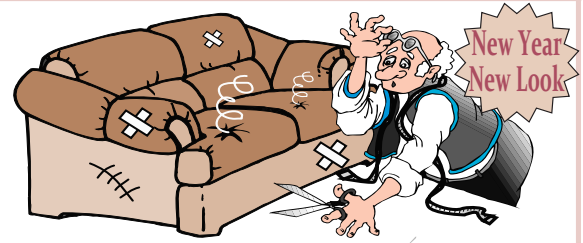
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HALESOWEN, NEWTON COURT

A recently converted three bedroom top floor penthouse apartment finished to an extremely high standard centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, one single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC = C

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

Luxury living in Hayley Green is this superb luxury first floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, two double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. Available Mid April 2013. EPC = B

£650 PCM



DUDLEY, STOURBRIDGE ROAD

Totally refurbished to a good standard. A terraced four bedroom property close to Dudley town centre features a lovely entrance hall with minton flooring, lovely lounge and separate dining room with feature fireplace, new large kitchen with overhead, downstairs wc, family bathroom with shower and a lovely rear garden. Viewings recommended to appreciate this property. Available immediately. EPC = F

£625 PCM



MERRY HILL, MADISON AVENUE

Flexible accommodation. A spacious unfurnished modern townhouse, within walking distance of Merry Hill shopping centre, featuring kitchen, downstairs WC, dining room/study, lounge, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master en-suite shower room, allocated parking space. EPC = C

£595 PCM



OLDBURY, MEHDI ROAD

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, is this modern unfurnished three storey townhouse, comprises 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, large lounge, fitted kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing, downstairs wc, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space, small rear garden. EPC = C

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, BATSMAN CLOSE

Modern and contemporary. Set within a new and quiet estate in Halesowen. A rare chance to rent a coach house, this property features a warm and welcoming lounge/dining room, modern kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, small courtyard garden, driveway parking and garage. EPC = C

£575 PCM



TIPTON, PEARTREE AVENUE

Cul-de-sac location. This deceptively large 3 bedroom terraced house is undergoing a re-decoration and re-carpeting. It features a spacious lounge, large modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized garden, driveway parking and in a quiet cul-de-sac location. EPC = C

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAGLEY STREET

Fantastic refurbishment over 2 floors. A fully refurbished modern duplex apartment above an electrical shop in the very centre of Halesowen, featuring a large open plan living area with modern fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. By agreement £40 fixed electric charge. EPC = C

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, THE INFIELDS

Stunning and modern on a well sought after new estate. This top floor apartment features 2 bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes, large lounge with real dark wood flooring, superb high spec kitchen with built in fridge/freezer & washer/dryer, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Available immediately. Not to be missed! EPC = C

£550 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

Situated in this popular residential area. This top floor apartment which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony, comprises 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, access to balcony from the master bedroom, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Well worth an inspection. EPC rating = B

£525 PCM



QUARRY BANK, EVERS STREET

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Desirable Oldswinford location. Close to Stourbridge Town Centre this newly decorated, unfurnished mid terraced house comprises 2 bedrooms, fitted dining kitchen, pleasant lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, bathroom with shower, small rear garden, parking space to front. EPC = D

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STOURBRIDGE, CHAPEL STREET

A three bedroom link detached house within walking distance to lye shops, buses and train station, comprising of lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and bathroom, electric heating, double glazing, rear garden with patio, blocked paved driveway for two cars. Available immediately. EPC = F

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CRADLEY HEATH, UNIT DRIVE

Quiet and peaceful location. Located in a quiet and popular residential area, ideal for walking into Cradley Heath and local train station. This apartment on the top floor features 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, large lounge and feature fireplace, house bathroom with shower, modern kitchen with washer/dryer. Available 26/03/13. EPC = C

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ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE

An unfurnished first flat, close to shops and local train station featuring electric storage heating, fitted kitchen, living room, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, parking. EPC = E

£475 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, FOXDALE DRIVE

Freshly redecorated and within 3 minutes drive of Brierley Hill town centre and a few minutes more from Merry Hill shopping centre. This unfurnished end terrace house comprises 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, 1 with fitted wardrobes, house bathroom with shower, nice sized lounge, fitted kitchen, allocated parking, small front garden. EPC = C

£450 PCM



DUDLEY, SOUTHGATE WAY

A stunning and spacious well presented unfurnished third floor apartment featuring 2 double bedrooms, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewings highly recommended. Available immediately. EPC = B

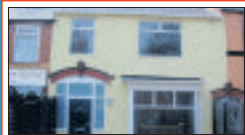
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ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, comprises 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC rating = D

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Available is this unfurnished ground floor apartment which is well presented throughout, within walking distance to Cradley Heath train station, featuring a modern fitted kitchen, light and airy lounge, bathroom with shower, 1 bedroom with built in wardrobes, parking to the front, communal drying area. EPC = D

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Home of Property

End terrace property in conservation area

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The rear dining room measures 9ft 3in by 9ft 1in and has hand-crafted, built-in cupboards and a step down to the kitchen measuring 8ft 8in by 5ft 11in.

The kitchen has wall and base units, roll top work surfaces, one and a half bowl, inset, stainless steel sink with mixer tap, four ring gas hob with extractor fan over and eye-level, built-in double oven. There is also a rear utility, 7ft 7in by 5ft, with space and plumbing for a washing machine and other appliances.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with panelled bath, wash hand basin and WC.

Outside is a paved area adjacent to the house, with useful brick built outbuildings, gardener's toilet, shed and low maintenance garden mainly laid to slabs.

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MacDonald Close, Tividale



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William Barrows Way Tipton



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Offers Over £125,000

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Penrice Drive, Tividale



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Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

Deepdale Lane, Dudley



Offers Over £90,000

Semi detached two bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen, WC, bathroom and front and rear gardens. Must be viewed to fully appreciate.

Clifton Street, Bilston



£80,000

A two bedroom end terraced property briefly comprising two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs WC, upstairs bathroom and rear garden.

Kenswick Drive, Halesowen



Spies Lane, Halesowen



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Traditional semi detached house comprises entrance hallway, bay fronted lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms and family bathroom.

Albert Road, Halesowen



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A three bedroom semi detached house comprising conservatory and off road parking. The property also has side garage and double glazing where specified.

Wiltshire Drive Halesowen



OIRO £110,000

Modern semi detached property situated in a cul-de-sac. The property comprises kitchen, three bedrooms, allocated parking and front and rear garden.



£170,000

A modern semi detached house comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, drive and garage.

Halesowen Rd, Cradley Heath



£100,000

End terraced house comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, Bathroom, separate toilet and rear garden.

Spring Street, Halesowen



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FORD FIESTA 1.6, 3 door, silver, auto, 2006, 32,000 miles, tax and MoT June 2013, £2,850 ono. Telephone 01902 892755.

FORD MONDEO 1.8 Zetec, silver, 5dr hatchback, petrol, 2006, fsh, full MoT, must view, excellent condition, 40k, £3,995. 01902 846631

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MAZDA 6S top quality Family hatch, silver, good condition, 05, 1800, petrol, MoT / tax, reliable, cheap, £3,500 ono. 01902 895481.

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MERCEDES E320 CDI, Avant Garde Est, 2005, FSH, Sat Nav, Tow Bar, Immaculate £7,000. 01384 261864 / 0777 949266.

MINI ONE white, 1.4, 58 plate, MoT and tax, June, fsh, 42k, Immaculate condition, £3,500. 07792 861317 - 0121 5882810

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RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 Expression, 2005, 39,000 miles, MoT, 13, cl, a/c, excellent condition, £2,295 ono. 01902 492702.

TOYOTA CELICA 2000, tax and MoT, 1 lady owner, good condition, £1,850, 07376 794681.

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07889 548877

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LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949**

JANINE petite cute female who loves meals in/out, romantic strolls, WLTW interesting appreciative, independent man for IRL. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400803**

JULIE 30's female looking for some much needed tie with similar laidback male. Likes nights in/out, socialising, romance etc, call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400487**

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106**

KATHY 38yrs, knows what she wants out of life, wltw similar genuine male to wine/dine enjoy travel, share ambitions and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400793**

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041**

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTW nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401837**

JULIE cute blonde blue eyed fiery female 31, looking for laidback dates and fun times with older confident male, 40-65yrs with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401833**

JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTW up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, adult fun times and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401591**

TRACY slim blue eyed blonde, likes nights out, travel, commitment phobic, looking for understanding professional male for mutually convenient meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401579**

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399523**

SARA young fun and sick of being single, trendy, well presented, very attractive, loves good food/wine, keeping fit, fast cars, looking to fall in love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401543**

I'M Carol 39, slim, blonde with legs 11, passionate by nature, loves tie and looking for similar solvent male for fun times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401467**

CHANTELLE 40yr old slim sensual confident female who loves to party, seeking older male for fun dates without complications. Any age/race. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400465**

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NICKY lonely 39yr old single man looking for adult companionship and strictly no strings fun. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398189**

DEBBIE sexy size 14, fun, outgoing, discreet, looking for fun times only with male over 40yrs, call to find out more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398759**

HI I'm Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665**

SUE confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397485**

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OPENMINDED blue eyed, dark haired loving male, seeks genuine, fun loving female for nights in/out and weekends away. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402313**

IAN tall, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, caring, genuine, loving, tender, happy go lucky, likes music, theatre, meals out, romantic nights in, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401065**

BE my valentine. Romantic white male, 47, 5ft 11ins, seeks lady, likes meals out, holidays, cinema and keep fit. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402243**

MALE 45, Asian, slim, seeks female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402213**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, seeks female, 18 plus, for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

COVENTRY male, 42, 6ft 1ins, caring, romantic nature, seeks female, single mum welcome, 25-55, any nationality/Foreign for nice times in and out. Genuine replies only. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398671**

64YR old widower, 5ft 6ins, hardworking, likes meals out, countryside, seeks female 57-64 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401925**

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking curvy, scrumptious female for fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401737**

STEVE 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks female with view to permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401695**

VINCE 52, caring, seeking female for fun and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401683**

AIDEN single dad, 44, seeking female for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401651**

MALE 60, 5ft 10ins, loving, caring, seeking genuine female, any age, 40-60 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400513**

40YR old Asian male, GSOH, likes meals out, country walks, large wine or two with good company and am eager to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401609**

MALE 50, genuine, honest, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394232**

MICHAEL 50, nice eyes, seeking female companion for holidays and weekends away, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401479**

STEVE 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks similar female for permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401441**

RICHARD 48, dark hair, brown eyes, olive skin, WLTW lady, 40-50 for LTR, size unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401431**

ASIAN male, 45, 5ft 9ins, slim, caring, loyal, GSOH, WLTW lady, 35-45 for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402493**

ATTRACTIVE tall, Indian professional male, GSOH, easygoing, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeks female with GSOH who enjoys life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401385**

TALL mature, solvent male, seeks to wine and dine younger lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401241**

RICHARD 39, honest, caring, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks lady, 35-40 for good times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401145**

GARY 46, loyal, genuine, GSOH, keen to earth, seeking attractive lady for relationship. South Shrops/North Herefordshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400237**

IAN 6ft, likes meals out, weekends away, seeks female, Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394134**

DAVE happy go lucky, sociable, seeks attractive young lady, 35-40 to pamper and cook for. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401043**

NEW Year new start. Romantic white male, 47, 5ft 11ins, likes holidays, keep fit, music, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401013**

KEITH white male, 49, handsome, 6ft 2ins, seeks buxom black female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394094**

GAY SINGLES

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MARK 36, seeking fun, outgoing male for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401723**

STEVE 54 bl, non-scene, seeking guy of similar age or older for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401465**

OLDER male, outgoing, sporty, seeking younger man for fun and friendship, slim-medium build, active, hairy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401225**

CD 70 plus seeking CD 70 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393208**

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892**

GAY male, 34, slim, toned, seeking older guy for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395735**

MALE 44, seeking male, 18-23 for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626**

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SKODA FABIA 1.4
Petrol, 2003, 77,000 miles, green metallic, abs, fsh, full MoT, pas, sunroof, alloys, heated mirrors, central locking, new brake pads/discs, excellent condition. Reason for sale: owner gone abroad.
£1,495 ono.
01384 377209.

SUZUKI ALTO GL Y reg. Red, EAV, C/L, 56,000 miles, new battery, lady owner, Tax, MoT £295. 01902 656638.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6, 16V, 5dr. Petrol, Y reg, 2001, MoT May, Tax April, good condition, £650 ono. 07730 871076.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 16V. T reg, met green, PAS, tax March, MoT Sept, good condition, drives nice. £595 ono. 07812 106929.

VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE. 53 reg, blue, 3 door, 61,000 miles, tax, MoT pas, cl, c/v, excellent condition, £1,495. 07974 343970.

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Auto. Petrol. 51 reg.
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Good Family car.
Very reliable.
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Mixed bag of results as survival in balance

Old Halesonians 0 Bridgnorth 3
OLD HALES men's hockey seconds' fight for survival continues after a mixed bag of results and performances against Bridgnorth and North Staffs.

On Saturday, looking poor and without confidence, they were comfortably beaten by a strong Bridgnorth side who are rightly fighting for promotion from the West Midlands Premier.

Three goals down, a Hales fightback never looked on.

Old Halesonians 1 North Staffs 0

The seconds got a potentially crucial win on Sunday. They struggled to break through early on and relied on disciplined defending to keep out the visitors.

In the second half, they lost some of their intensity and Hales' chances came and went, remaining unconverted through lack of composure and good defending.

Mike Wattleley eventually netted from close range after good work from Graham Knight and Charles Palmer.

Hales then saw the game out, leaving Mark Rigby's side two points from safety but with a game in hand.

They travel to face Telford, the team directly above them, next Saturday in what is another crucial fixture.

Old Halesonians 3 Lichfield 2
The thirds sprung a surprise by beating Lichfield.

Victory guaranteed them safety in the West Midlands Premier but put a dent in their rivals' hopes of promotion.

Old Hales welcomed back Tony James in defence, to partner Neil Painter at the back.

They soaked up huge amounts of pressure to frustrate the opposition.

Hales took the lead against the run of play, Steve Butler finishing off a fine team move by placing the ball into an empty net.

Man of the match Ade Lockyer pulled off save after save, but Lichfield eventually equalised only for Hales to regain the advantage as Mike Link set up Adam Hill for his 19th goal of the season.

Lichfield drew level from a short corner once again, only for Hill to grab his second midway through the second half.

Old Hales defended well for the final 15 minutes to hang on.

Results: Old Hales ladies firsts 6 Old Silhillians 2, Old Hales ladies seconds 2 Kidderminster 3, Edgbaston 0 Old Hales fourths 1, Hampton-in-Arden 6 Old Hales fifths 1, Old Hales Badgers 0 Streety 2.



Great Britain's Jordanne Whiley during the Paralympics

Serving up double victory

Wheelchair tennis

Ribble Tennis Centre between 2007 and 2009.

The British No 2 and top seed beat fellow Brit Debbie Brazier 6-1, 6-1 in her opening match of the year and secured a comprehensive 6-1, 6-2 victory over third seed Emily Chene in the semi-finals.

As Whiley took on her second French opponent in successive days, she raced into a commanding 5-0 lead en route to claiming the first set of the final against second seed Christine

Schoenn. Three games in succession gave Whiley a 5-2 second set lead and she wrapped up a 6-3, 6-1 victory for her fourth North West Challenge title.

"I've just come out of a three-month training regime, so it's great to be back to playing matches again," said Whiley.

Whiley followed the first two of her previous North West Challenge single titles by adding the women's doubles title, too, and this year she regained the doubles crown partnering Russia's Evgeniya Korotkina. The second seeds dropped just three games in their semi-final and built healthy leads in both sets of the final for a 6-4, 7-5 victory.

Three out of four are winners as games off

Halas Hawks

SEVERAL Halas Hawks matches fell foul of icy weather at the weekend.

But four teams did play, three winning.

Boys League

Halas Hawks U9 West 2
Kewford Eagles U9 North 3

A gritty performance merited at least a draw.

Jack Blakeway went close but Halas found themselves two goals down at half-time.

Daryl Ledington pulled one back but Kewford scored a third shortly afterwards.

Joseph Gould clawed back the deficit, but continued late pressure could not bring an equaliser. Halas man of the match was Sam Dodd.

Wombourne Olympic U10 0
Halas Hawks U10 West 5

The under-10s West travelled to Wombourne and overcame a shaky start.

They could have been two goals down inside 10 minutes but for two excellent saves from goalkeeper James Exall.

Despite their slow start, Halas went ahead with a Mark Brookes penalty.

The second half was much better from a Halas perspective.

Three further goals from Brookes and one by Calum Steatham brought an eventually comfortable success.

Halas Hawks U14 4

Stourbridge Athletic U14 1

The under-14s recorded their first win of 2013 with a hard-fought victory over a plucky Stourbridge side.

Halas started brightly and were creating chances but not converting them.

It wasn't until midway through the half that they went in front when Josh Herne won and converted a penalty. Stourbridge were soon level, but within minutes Halas regained the lead through Cain Brissett.

The second half saw Halas on top for long periods and they secured the win when Herne and Brissett each got their second goal.

Man of the match went to Jack Finch.

Wychall Wdrs U16 0

Halas Hawks U16 4

The under-16s eased through to the quarter-finals of the Birmingham County Cup with a comprehensive 4-0 victory against Wychall Wanderers from the Central Warwickshire League.

Scorers were Mitchell Tomlinson, Harry Martin, Jake Walley and Dan Willets.

Albion's dream time as safety established

Albion 2 Sunderland 1

WITH their main mission now completed, Albion and their fans are today free to dream.

But before the club or fans turn attentions to greater glories, they should take a moment to reflect on what has been achieved already, writes Steve Madeley.

A performance with more than a hint of their early-season swagger and two goals from the red-hot Romelu Lukaku took Steve Clarke's side to 40 points - on February 23.

Say it quickly, and it almost sounds straightforward but a generation of Baggies fans will confirm that what was achieved on an afternoon of varying emotions at The Hawthorns is the stuff of dreams.

The finest Albion squad for 30 years has raced to the summit of a mountain that previous groups from recent history had to scramble, claw and inch their way towards - sometimes falling short.

Success

Clarke's men planted their flag in safe Premier League ground with snow still in the winter air. Now they have three more months to set their sights on even higher peaks, sure in the knowledge that the campaign is already a success.

To put the current squad's accomplishments in context, it is useful to glance back at the last two memorable seasons under Roy Hodgson. Albion are five points better off than they were at the same stage last time and a full 12 points ahead of this stage in the previous campaign.

And in each of those seasons, it took Hodgson's high-achievers seven more matches and roughly two more months to break the 40-point barrier that Clarke's side smashed through at the weekend.

If Baggies fans need evidence of an upward trajectory, a quick look at the facts and figures should be all they require.

Now, however, it is inevitable that supporters will begin to wonder how much more



Man of the moment Romelu Lukaku lines up another shot for Albion

can be attained in what remains of this most enjoyable of seasons. While a mid-season injury crisis and subsequent loss of form left hopes of European football severely diminished, back-to-back victories over Liverpool and Sunderland have put them close enough to the scrap to stay interested.

Everton's loss at Norwich, Swansea's Capital One Cup distractions and Liverpool's continued struggles mean a strong end to the campaign might still put Albion in the mix for the sixth-place finish that could deliver a Europa League adventure.

If key players can maintain form that sent Sunderland away empty-handed at the weekend, it is perfectly possible that the Baggies could end the season with a flourish similar to the one at the start. Claudio Yacob and Youssouf Mulumbu combined superbly in the heart of midfield to remind fans just how crucial their alliance is to their side.

Twenty-nine points from 15 games with them starting compared to 11 points from the 12 games with one or both missing tells its own story.

Captain Chris Brunt underlined his return to form with a performance of intelligent craft and industrious endeavour, while James Morrison did not allow a move out wide to limit his creative influence.

With the rest of the side functioning and strike partner Shane Long sharing the burden of work, Lukaku produced an exhibition of pace, confidence and explosive power that The Hawthorns has surely not seen since Cyrille Regis was in his prime.

The on-loan Chelsea teenager had already troubled the Black Cats' defenders and helped carve out a glorious chance that Mulumbu squandered by the time he opened the scoring with a nerveless 35th-minute penalty after Liam Ridgwell's cross



Boos greeted the arrival of Peter Odemwingie on the pitch

was handled by former team-mate Craig Gardner. Lukaku was the focal point of a spell of dominance either side of half-time with a string of dangerous balls flying into the box, although the hosts did survive a pre-interval scare as ex-Wolves forward Steven Fletcher hit the woodwork.

There were 15 minutes left as Lukaku grabbed a deserved second, skinning John O'Shea and chasing down Titus Bramble's poor backpass before keeper Simon Mignolet's clearance hit his shin and flew in.

Stephane Sessegnon set up a tense finish as he scored and the mood hardly improved when rebel forward Peter Odemwingie's introduction to a loud smattering of boos altered the atmosphere in the ground.

But Albion held on for a significant win and now they can set new targets - once they have enjoyed their considerable triumph for a day or two.

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SPORT

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Peter's friends?

Boos for striker, but a win for the Baggies

Page 35



Just ace

Double success for star Whiley

Page 35



Sabrina Dale on the ball for Halesowen Town Ladies

Hales stretch their winning run to five

Aldridge & Walsall 0 Old Halesonians 1
OLD HALESONIANS men's hockey firsts stretched their winning streak to five games.

Promotion-chasing Hales started the West Midlands Premier game at a high tempo, as they dominated in possession and territory.

Despite impressive pressing play, Hales seemed unable to breach the defence although Tom Bulteel was close more than once early on.

The only goal came on 20 minutes. Bulteel turned provider, driving along the baseline to draw the

Hockey

keeper out. He slipped the ball to Chris Wattley, who, after a tearing run from defence, composed himself, and flicked past the diving keeper for his first goal of the season.

Hales contained any Aldridge & Walsall resistance until half-time, when they regrouped and concentrated on using space to exploit the home side. However, the hosts put pressure on their visitors. Hales found themselves on the back foot for periods of the second half, with

most of Walsall's attacks stemming from mistakes by the visitors. However, keeper Alex Fraser kept his concentration and was able to prevent any scores against him.

A string of penalty corners gave the home side hope, but man of the match Fraser stepped up again to keep them all out.

Hales then looked to strike on the counter-attack. Josh Randhawa had a chance, but the ball hit his foot just yards from the goal.

Harry Hughes also had an opportunity from a breakaway, but could-

n't quite round the Walsall goal-keeper and get his shot away.

Strike partner Chris Hill also fired off-target, while the home side's goalkeeper kept his team in the game on several occasions.

It was a very frustrating afternoon for Hales, but they ground out the three points as they continue to chase promotion with just four games left in the campaign.

On Saturday they host Tamworth before travelling to Old Silhillians next day.

More hockey - Page 35



Scorer Chris Wattley

Six wins in a row as Town hit three

Halesowen Town 3
Loughborough Dynamo 0

RAMPANT Halesowen cruised to a comfortable sixth straight victory with three early goals wrapping up the points by half-time.

In the early onslaught, Ben Haseley set up strike partner Luke Corbett to fire a good chance high before Haseley's shot was turned past the post by goalkeeper Laurie Pearson. But Loughborough failed to clear the resulting corner, allowing Aaron Griffiths to hammer Yeltz ahead with an unstoppable seventh-minute volley.

Haseley proved far too nimble for the Loughborough defence all afternoon in this Evo-Stik Northern First Division South match and doubled Halesowen's lead after 14 minutes when Jean-Michel Gueyes surged forward. He played a neat ball into the box for Haseley to smash home.

Hungry Haseley soon put the result beyond doubt with his second goal, converting a close-range header from a 35th-minute corner by the influential Mitch Botfield.

Much of the second period was scrappy with Haseley subjected to a series of tough challenges as he sought his fourth hat-trick in six games. He almost found it but his 55th-minute lob was ruled offside.

Substitute Naveed Arshad could have made it four but missed a sitter from just three yards in the 78th minute after a good cross from Haseley.

Loughborough went close when substitute Tom Liversedge headed onto the top of the bar in the 83rd minute but it was the Yeltz's day.

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Rachel's hat-trick as Yeltz stay top

Halesowen Town Ladies 6
Football Futures 1

WIND CHILL made Sunday one of the coldest days of the season, but the Yeltz ladies played heart-warming football to stay unbeaten in Birmingham County Division Two.

Table-topping Halesowen pressed early on against a side getting plenty of players behind the ball.

Deadlock was broken as player of the match Shannie Jennings put a good ball through for Rachel Letford to slot beyond the oncoming keeper.

Minutes later, Sian Whittall doubled the advantage with a 25-yard free-kick for handball.

The Yeltz went close through Angie Morley and Chloe Harris before Football Futures halved the deficit with a goal just before the interval.

In the second half Halesowen, under instruction to release the ball more quickly to their forwards, dominated proceedings.

Whittall netted another free-kick and new signing Jo Butler headed in from a corner play short.

Two quick goals from Letford completed her hat-trick as Sabrina Dale's assured tackling gave her side plenty of possession.

Tivdale slump to big defeat

Tivdale 0
Boldmere St Michaels 4

TIVIDALE followed up their derby loss at Tipton by slumping to a home defeat in the Midland Alliance on Tuesday night.

Boldmere took the lead on 13 minutes after Simeon Maye's shot from the edge of the box gave Tim Beech no chance. Michael Woolman scored twice and Will Perkins made it four.

BOSS Steve Clarke believes Albion will be in pole position to re-sign Romelu Lukaku - if Chelsea decide to loan out the in-form teenager next season.

But the Hawthorns head coach has admitted the Belgium international's future is unlikely to be decided until the summer. Clarke reckons "the sky is the limit" for Lukaku, who has hit 12 goals for the Baggies during his season-long loan from Stamford Bridge and has already expressed an interest in staying for a second year.

The Scot said: "It's something that will come up for discussion in the summer."

"Chelsea are his parent club, he is their player and they will decide what they want to do first and foremost."

"Hopefully, we will get a chance to put ourselves in the hat."

"If Chelsea want to leave him out for another season somewhere I think we would have a strong chance of getting him back here but it is a discussion for the summer."

Future

"For such a young player the sky is the limit."

"He has all the attributes to be a really top player. He is very level-headed and he understands why he came here and what he's got to do in the future to be a big player at a really big club."

"We will just try to help him along the way with that."

Chelsea paid £15m to sign the giant forward from Anderlecht in 2011 and the fee could rise to £18m with add-ons.

But Clarke believes Lukaku has the talent to justify the London club's faith.

"Chelsea saw it as a long-term investment," said Clarke.

by Steve Madeley

"To make that kind of investment in an 18-year-old, as he was at the time, was significant."

"We're just pleased that he chose to come to us to get more minutes on the pitch, to get time played in the Premier League."

"It's refreshing for me as a coach to work with a young player with the attitude that he wants to be the best and improve every day."

"He's one of those players I have to drag in off the training field and say: 'You need to get inside now, go and have a shower and get ready' for tomorrow's session."

"He is one of those players who would stay out all day. He wants to get better all the time, which is a great attribute to have."

Meanwhile, former Albion hero Laurie Cunningham will be profiled in a TV documentary to be screened next week. The ex-Baggies winger, who died at the age of 33, is the subject of *First Among Equals*, a programme to be shown on ITV at 10.35pm on Wednesday.

The hour-long documentary will examine the significance of Cunningham's career at The Hawthorns.

Rivals given tough time as points mount up



Anxious moments as Wednesbury defend on their 22m line with Bloxwich securing possession at the breakdown

WEDNESBURY invariably have tough matches against local rivals Bloxwich and this one was no exception.

The first half-hour of the Midlands Three West (North) game was even with both sides battling for possession and defences working overtime.

Wednesbury's full-back Harry Bird, playing his first game of the year, had a blinder.

The stalemate was broken on the half-hour when Bloxwich broke through the Wednesbury defence to go

Bloxwich 25 Wednesbury 7

over in the corner for their first try, unconverted. It took them just eight more minutes to score their second, this time with the extra points tacked on to make it 12-0 at half-time.

The second half was only three minutes old when Bloxwich were again on the scoresheet, increasing their lead with a penalty.

Wednesbury battled all the way with centre Mitch Grearly having an out-

standing game. But with only 10 minutes remaining, Bloxwich sealed the game with another converted try to lead 22-0.

Five minutes later Wednesbury's effort finally paid off when Grearly finished off a fine move to score a try, Tom Huggins converting.

But it was Bloxwich who had the final word, landing a penalty to round off the scoring.

On Saturday, Wednesbury entertain league leaders Willenhall (3pm).

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